

Pointdexter to subpoena Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran-contraprosecutor Lawrence Walsh said Friday he would subpoena President George Bush and former President Ronald Reagan to testify at his trial. Walsh said the government is reducing the size of its case to avoid the kinds of protracted discussions over the use of classified material that delayed the trial of Oliver North, a former aide to Pointdexter. At a hearing in U.S. district court, defense attorney Richard Becker said Pointdexter intends to subpoena Bush and Reagan. The former White House official "had substantial contact with both of these individuals throughout this offense as outlined to the indictment," Becker told Judge Harold Greene. But prosecutor Christian Mober contended that after the charges are narrowed against Pointdexter, "there would be no reason to involve these individuals" in the trial. North had tried unsuccessfully to require Bush and Reagan to testify at his trial, in which he was convicted of three felonies. Walsh said he plans to seek dismissal of counts accusing Pointdexter of theft of government property and wire fraud.

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Members waive visa rules, give employment priority to council nationals

ACC summit concludes

Compiled by our staff from agency dispatches

ALEXANDRIA — Leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states, ending a three-day summit here, Friday

agreed to scrap entry visa requirements for ACC nationals into their respective countries and pledged to employ more of each others' nationals.



The four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) leaders — (from left to right) Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian

President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh — in Alexandria Friday (Petra wirephoto)

The leaders also enter an agreement in the field of law and justice aimed at achieving a unification of legislation among the four member states. The importance of such an agreement, Nammur said, lies in that it would remove legal obstacles in the face of economic integration.

Agreement has also been reached on issues related to air transportation. Nammur pointed to the importance of such an agreement to integration in the transport network which is considered essential for close contacts between the four countries.

Agreement has been reached on coordination among foreign ministers of the four member countries to enhance solidarity, cooperation and consultation in order to unify positions on political issues, especially at regional and international conferences.

Nammur said resolutions adopted at the Alexandria summit would reflect the four leaders' keenness to come up with decisions based on

consensus, reflecting the interest of every Arab citizen.

Nammur, an American-educated economist and former member of parliament and president of Cairo University, said the four leaders also agreed to make Amman the permanent headquarters of the ACC. He said they also approved the basic organizational structure of the ACC general secretariat, the ACC financial structure, means of communication between the general secretariat and the member states and the ACC's temporary budget, designating that each member state pay \$300,000 to the secretariat. The council would therefore have an administrative budget of \$2 million annually, Nammur said.

Regarding ACC relations with foreign countries, Nammur said: "ACC member states will have a more effective negotiating position with other countries, especially in view of the existence of large economic groupings," in the world.

"Our door is open to these groupings and to other foreign countries if that contributes to economic cooperation among ACC countries, especially in setting up consultative projects," Nammur said.

He stressed that the ACC economic integration should be of the "productive" sort rather than that based purely on trade.

Nammur said dual membership in separate Arab councils was an "un-

acceptable" matter.

Far from being merely an executive body, the ACC general secretariat will formulate a proper strategy for projects of ACC integration, identify opportunities for setting up projects which can be executed in the interest of the four countries, and will conduct necessary studies on various fields of cooperation between its four members, Nammur said.

He pointed out that the ACC was not formed out of a vacuum since substantive bilateral relations were already in place among the members.

Military cooperation between the four countries, however, was not being discussed yet, he said.

Nammur told reporters he would soon initiate contact with officials from the ACC and AMU to discuss cooperation between those two groupings and the ACC.

In an address to the ACC opening session which he gave on behalf of the three guest leaders, King Hussein said the summit constitutes a "correct" beginning for the ACC, the drawing of its policies and its decision making.

"The Alexandria summit will transform the ACC principles from the abstract to their practical form, a matter which will induce confidence and hope into our people in that it will reap the fruit of organized Arab

Lawzi heads for APU meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi left Amman Friday for Abu Dhabi at the head of a Jordanian Parliamentary delegation to take part in the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) Council's 19th session and the union's fifth conference which start Sunday. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings groups senators Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Mohammad Rasou Al Khami. The conference will discuss the current Arab situation and the role of Arab parliamentarians in enhancing Arab solidarity and promoting parliamentary relations with African and Latin American parliamentarians. Participants will approve a plan for strengthening and increasing the efficiency of the APU and enhancing its role in the International Parliamentary Union. Also on the meeting's agenda are issues pertaining to the secretary general's report on the union's activities for this year, and its final account and budget. The union's council will discuss a report prepared by a special committee and the secretary general's report on implementing the council's resolutions in addition to present the council's plan of action, its final account and budget for 1989.

Leaders reaffirm support for Palestinians, back Iraq, urge foreign pullout from Lebanon

ALEXANDRIA (Petra) — The four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Friday reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for independence and pledged continued assistance to the 19-month-old intifada in the occupied territories.

In a final communique issued by the four leaders — His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh — at the end of a two-day summit here, the council deplored Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people, endorsed the peace strategy adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), supported by the State of Palestine declared by the Palestine National Council and welcomed all other resolutions adopted by the council in November.

Welcoming Egypt's readmission to the Arab League, the council said Cairo's presence in the Arab ranks would boost Arab solidarity and collective Arab action.

Praising Iraq's acceptance of the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iran, the council emphasised the need to counter any move which might undermine the ceasefire. It reaffirmed the ACC members' solidarity with Iraq and supported Baghdad's push to organise a U.N.-approved plan to clear the Shatt Al Arab waterway of war debris.

Expressing concern over the stalled moves for a comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war between Iran and Iraq, the council called intensified international efforts to resolve the issue.

Pledging support of efforts by the three-member Arab heads-of-state committee Lebanon, the council expressed hope that the panel's endeavours would bear fruit and reiterated the need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Shomron: Expulsion, starvation, or genocide only way to end uprising

Palestinians, Israeli troops clash outside Gaza prison

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops used rubber bullets and clubs to put down a protest outside Gaza Strip prison Friday and a 60-year-old Palestinian woman was injured in the head, reports said.

Also Friday, masked assailants attacked a Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israel in the West Bank town of Tulkarem, stabbing him with a knife and firing his car, Israeli and Palestinian news reports said.

The army confirmed that Bassem Akhras, 26, was lightly wounded in the attack and was treated in an Israeli hospital.

Israel's chief of staff, in his strongest rebuff to politicians demanding a military solution to the Palestinian uprising, said meanwhile, that only mass expulsions, starvation or genocide could stop the revolt.

Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron's remarks, broadcast Friday, followed growing calls from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Party for the army to crush the 18-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"People ask why we don't end the intifada," Shomron told businessmen in a speech in Ashdod Thursday night.

"Anyone who wants to end the intifada must remember that there are only three ways to achieve this — transfer, starvation or physical elimination — that is, genocide."

Transfer is the term used by Israeli rightists seeking the voluntary or forcible removal of 1.75 million Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Likud's Ariel Sharon, who masterminded Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, is demanding that the uprising be crushed before Israel allows Palestinians to hold elections to choose peace negotiators.

Shamir rebuked Shomron earlier this year for saying the uprising could not be defeated since it expressed the struggle of Palestinian nationalism.

In other incidents Friday, Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank, hospitals reported.

A 45-year-old Bethlehem woman shopping for vegetables lost her left eye after being hit by army gunfire, her family said.

At Gaza's central prison, families of detainees being stoned soldiers when they learned that their relatives in the prison refused to see them as a protest against jail conditions.

Troops shot in the head and wounded a 60-year-old woman in the head during the clash.

In the West Bank, parliamentary Hanan Portat said he was stoned while driving past Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem. The army clamped a curfew on the camp.

In Sair village near Hebron, a 54-year-old woman was shot by soldiers and treated in hospital, Alia hospital said.

A military court in Hebron released, on condition that he remain under house arrest, a Palestinian motorist who struck a Jewish woman pedestrian last week.

Israel intensified its clampdown on Palestinians in the occupied territories Thursday, closing the news office of prominent Arab Jerusalem moderate Sari Nusseibeh and demolishing two homes in the Gaza Strip.

Declaring Nusseibeh's Arab Jerusalem office closed for two years, the armed Israeli force removed documents, changed locks and ordered him to report to police headquarters for questioning.

Nusseibeh was accused of aiding the PLO amid helping organise the Palestinian uprising.

The raid came a day after Shamir's office said Shamir would shortly meet Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for preliminary talks on the Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied territories.

Israeli sources said that Nusseibeh had been expected to be among Arabs invited to meet Shamir.

Sources said Nusseibeh and his associates were suspected of giving active support to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its mainstream Fatah faction.

A cameraman for ABC Television Thursday was shot in the head with a rubber bullet fired by Israeli troops dispersing Palestinian demonstrators in the West Bank town of Ramallah, a network producer said.

The cameraman, Shlomo Franco, 42, an Israeli, was hospitalised with a rubber bullet injury, said a hospital spokeswoman.

Security sources said six U.S.-made "Skyhawk" warplanes fired three rockets into a three-room military base used by the FRC.

Residents said ambulances evacuated four FRC guerrillas but it was not known whether the four were dead or wounded. Two children, living in a nearby three-story building, were wounded, they said.

Witnesses said the low-flying planes scored direct hits on the FRC base on the southern edge of the camp, overlooking the Mediterranean. They said the base was flattened.

The air attack, the first by Israel against Rashidiyah since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, came one day after Belgian physician Jan Cools was released in the southern provincial capital of Sidon after 13 months in captivity (see page 2).

FRC said it had mediated his release with the kidnappers, a shadowy group calling itself Soldiers of Justice.

Police analysts believe soldiers of justice is one of the fictitious names used by the Abu Nidal group.

The raid Friday, Israel's eighth air attack into Lebanon this year, came two days after Israeli warplanes blasted a guerrilla air raid hideout southeast of Beirut.

Israeli jets bomb Rashidiyah

RASHIDIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted a Palestinian base of the group led by Abu Nidal Friday, the first attack against this southern refugee camp in seven years.

Police said two children were wounded in a house near the beachside base of Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC).

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said a casualty report from the stricken base within the camp was not available.

Abu Nidal's guerrillas, dressed in green fatigues and totting automatic rifles, sealed off the camp's water front and part of its eastern edge, refusing to allow reporters and photographers to survey the damage.

The guerrillas said both sites were hit by the Israeli jet fighters in two runs within 10 minutes at 5:50 a.m. (0250 GMT).

The FRC spokesman issued a statement saying the "Zionist enemy's air force carried out a criminal raid against some of our positions and houses belonging to civilians in Rashidiyah."

"Our air defences confronted the raiding jets and prevented them from achieving their goals. No casualties were reported," said the spokesman who was not identified. He did not elaborate.

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Aoun issues new threat against Syria

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army commander Michel Aoun warned Friday his forces would attack mountain roads leading to Damascus after shelling hit a tanker carrying badly needed gasoline for his besieged enclave, setting it ablaze.

"Roads leading to (Damascus) will not be safe henceforth," the 54-year-old army commander said in a statement broadcast by the state-run radio.

"We shall confront this foreign enemy with the courage of a warrior at the front," Aoun declared.

Hitting the network of roads that are Syria's lifeline for its forces in Lebanon would mark a sharp escalation in the three-month-old confrontation between

Aoun's army units and an alliance of Syrian and Lebanese militiamen.

Aoun did not spell out how he would strike. His artillery has shelled the network of roads, mainly in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon, but he could also use hit-and-run commando raids, land mines or car bombs to interdict the highways.

The tanker was hit by the Syrians, who have been blockading the Aoun enclave north of Beirut since mid-March, Thursday evening. It was burning out of control Friday.

Gunboats tried to salvage some of the cargo of three million litres of gasoline, but it had all been

burned.

"It's all gone and the ship is a total wreck," said a police spokesman.

The gunboat crews rescued nine Indian and four Lebanese sailors who had abandoned the burning vessel. But one Indian crewman remained missing and was presumed dead, the spokesman said.

The Aoun enclave suffers from an acute shortage of fuel because the main depots in the east Beirut neighbourhood of Dora were devastated by shelling March 30.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa blamed Aoun for the continuing tension despite an Arab League ceasefire call and the formation of a three-man

committee to enforce it.

"The crisis in Lebanon still stands because of Aoun's rejection of the formation of a (Lebanese) security committee to supervise the ceasefire and inspect ships to prevent weapons from reaching any party," Sharaa told the independent daily paper Al Nahar.

Aoun has insisted that such a committee should include Syrian officers. Syria insists the crisis is among the Lebanese factions and that it is only a neutral observer.

Meanwhile France's new ambassador to Lebanon Friday took the unprecedented step of presenting copies of his credentials to the heads of Lebanon's two rival cabinets.

Police reported scattered incidents, but no major violence Friday.

Pieter's mother, Dorothy Molefe, weeping over the grave, told Visnews television news agency she suspected the police were responsible.

"There is nobody else who could have broken the tombstone," she said. "This grave is history for other children to come and see — to know what happened on June 16."

"They are so afraid of us they are even fighting the dead," said an official of the black National African Council of Trade Unions at the graveside.

Friends said the smashed grave marker at the Avalon cemetery in Soweto was discovered when Pieter's mother arrived to place flowers on the grave Friday morning.

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U.N. chief seeks to push Sahara proposal

RABAT (R) — Efforts to solve the Western Sahara conflict, one of the world's oldest disputes, move up a gear when U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar tours North Africa next week.

Perez de Cuellar will arrive in Rabat Sunday with a U.N. peace plan that proposes a ceasefire between guerrillas of the Polisario Front and Moroccan forces, followed by a referendum on self-determination, but deliberately leaves other details vague.

"Breathing fresh life into the peace process and getting some flesh on the bones of the other ideas, such as what to do with the troops during the vote, will be his main task," an Arab diplomat said.

During his eight-day regional tour, Perez de Cuellar will also travel on to the capitals of Mauritania, Mali and Algeria.

A war of words flared ahead of the trip between Morocco and Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence for the former Spanish colony. Both sides accused the other of bad faith.

Analysts and diplomats, however, said predictable insults could not mask the reality that

the war was as good as over. There has been no fighting in the disputed territory — four-fifths of which is held by Morocco — for at least six months they said there was little chance of it resuming.

Algeria, Polisario's main military and political supporter for years, restored diplomatic relations with Morocco last May and has since closely cooperated with its neighbour on a range of issues. The two countries, along with Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya, set up the Arab Maghreb Union economic grouping in February.

The founding treaty said no state would harbour elements on its territory hostile to the interests of another member state.

Diplomats said that clause effectively removed the option of renewed war, already curtailed by Morocco's construction of huge fortified defence walls along the disputed border.

Polisario has its base camps in southwest Algeria.

A North African analyst said Algeria had decided that its long-term interests lay in good relations with Rabat but Morocco's King Hassan would have to pro-

vide something in return. A Polisario spokesman in Paris Thursday accused the king of being frightened to talk peace and said that he had cancelled a second round of talks with the guerrillas.

The king met Polisario officials Jan. 4 for the first direct talks since the conflict began in 1976. But he has been silent over whether he would see them again.

Diplomatic sources said the king — concerned about Moroccan public opinion — was angered by Polisario statements that gave the impression he had opened negotiations with the guerrillas.

But they said that he would probably have a second meeting to stay on good terms with Algeria and please Perez de Cuellar.

Polisario said Wednesday the release of 200 Moroccan prisoners had been postponed due to organisational problems.

Spain transferred responsibility for the 265,000 square kilometres of territory to Morocco and Mauritania when it pulled out in 1976. Morocco annexed the Mauritanian part in 1979.

Theologians stress Khamenei's merits

NICOSIA (AP) — The Friday prayer sermon in two major Iranian cities stressed President Ali Khamenei's qualifications for succeeding Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as the Islamic republic's supreme leader, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, spokesman for the Council of Guardians, said at Tehran University that expressions of loyalty from throughout the country indicated the strength of Khamenei's leadership.

In the theological centre of Qom, Ayatollah Ali Meshkini,

head of the Assembly of Experts, said that Khamenei had greater knowledge of political affairs than more senior clerical leaders.

IRNA quoted Kashani as saying: "The selection of Ayatollah Khamenei as the leader... and the pledge of allegiance from all the people has made his leadership stable, strong and indestructible."

Kashani spoke for the Council of Guardians, a 12-member panel of religious and legal experts that reviews laws passed by parliament for their religious and legal acceptability.

The Council of Experts that

Meshkini heads was appointed by Khomeini soon after the 1979 revolution to settle his succession. It voted that Khamenei succeed Khomeini June 4, a day after the revolutionary patriarch died of a heart attack.

Iranians began to refer to Khamenei as ayatollah, although he holds a lesser clerical office, after he was selected.

Kashani said that although there had been no plans in advance to select Khamenei, it was clear that he "is the most suitable person for this position."

ACC leaders conclude summit

(Continued from page 1)

cooperation between our four countries," King Hussein said.

On the sidelines of the three-day summit, Mubarak appealed to Iran to open a new chapter in relations with the Arabs. The Arab World, he assured Tehran, does not bear any grudge against the Iranians. He said the only obstacle to better Iranian-Arab ties was the deadlock in U.N.-sponsored talks on a final settlement to the Gulf war.

"Let us agree on clear foundations that achieve coexistence and neighbourliness," Mubarak urged Iranian leaders. "There is nothing between us and the Iranian people and there could be no enmity between us."

On Lebanon, Mubarak said the ACC was ready to give full backing to Arab efforts to find a peaceful settlement and he reiterated Egypt's view that peace was only possible if all foreign troops withdrew from the country.

In what appeared to be a reference to Israeli proposals for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, Mubarak said the Arabs should not reject new ideas outright.

"We have no differentiation between what is passive and what is positive in any ideas or proposals put to us," he said.

His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, gathered here for their first formal summit after the ACC founding session in February also agreed to study setting up joint ventures to boost economic output, newly-elected ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar said.

Nammar told a news conference that the leaders abolished with immediate effect entry visa requirements for visits by their nationals to the other ACC coun-

tries. Each country would also give priority to nationals of the other three when employing foreign workers, Nammar said.

But, he added, the ACC would not rush to scrap custom duties and other trade barriers since that could create economic imbalances.

"We are keen that the integration be gradual. The question of commerce will come at a later stage," he said.

"Achieving economic integration has a priority in the early stages," said Nammar whose appointment was approved Thursday night. "Achieving economic unity in fact leads to political power," he told reporters.

Mubarak's political adviser Osama Al Baz said what was important about the ACC was economic cooperation. "We are not setting up a military axis," he told reporters Thursday.

The Alexandria summit was originally scheduled for last month but was postponed following the death of Iraq's Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah in a helicopter crash in northern Iraq.

Nammar told a press conference Friday that the four leaders agreed on the basis and measures of ACC operation, its structure and method of operation.

Nammar said they also agreed on the benefits and immunity that would be awarded to ACC employees in its headquarters, granting them privileges which closely resemble those given to members of the diplomatic corps. The four leaders also agreed on issues related to ACC cash, mail transportation and means of settling conflicts.

Nammar said the four leaders also agreed to hold their next summit in the North Yemen capital, Sana'a, Sept. 25.

All four leaders have stressed that the council is not aimed at creating a political axis in the Middle East and that other Arab countries are

welcome to join it, provided they are not members of any other regional groups. Officials quoted by Reuters have stressed that the ACC does not have any political ambitions.

Officials have also been keen to point out that the ACC, along with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), will work within the 22-member Arab League.

"All these councils are in the framework of the Arab League. The whole ambition is to make from all Arab countries a bloc similar to the European Community," one diplomat was quoted by Reuters as saying. "I think it will help more in Arab League cooperation because we are dealing with blocs of states now," he added.

Egyptian officials said the ACC aims to double trade between member states over the next few years. Egypt's trade with Jordan is currently worth \$350 million annually, with Iraq, \$500 million and with North Yemen, \$40 million.

China

(Continued from page 1)

Chinese diplomats and staff are seeking to defect.

Signs were growing that Chinese leaders would face problems internationally in the wake of the brutal army crackdown and ensuing repression.

Western diplomats in Peking said a visit this autumn by hardline Premier Li Peng to West Germany, Italy, France and the European Community (EC) headquarters in Brussels was in doubt.

The British embassy said Vernon Mann and John Elphinstone, both of independent Television News, had been detained in the southwestern city Chengdu and told to leave Saturday for contravening the terms of their tourist visas.



The Israeli-imposed closure of schools in the occupied West Bank has seriously undermined Palestinian education, particularly among children under 10.

Palestinians battle illiteracy with underground schools

By Mary Sedor
The Associated Press

KAFR 'AIN, occupied West Bank — Half a dozen seven- and eight-year-olds sat on the floor of a makeshift classroom in this West Bank village and leafed through a book on animals. Some drew Palestinian flags in the margins, but none could read the simple text.

"If they were in school, they'd be able to read by now," said Najah Mahmoud, the children's 15-year-old teacher. "I'm trying to get them to memorise some words, but it just isn't enough."

The West Bank's 230,000 elementary school children have been deprived of an education for nearly 17 months as a result of Israel's closure of schools in an attempt to quell the Palestinian uprising. Classrooms have remained empty for all but a few weeks since Feb. 3, 1988.

To try to keep students from falling too far behind, Palestinians have been running underground classes in more than 100 West Bank towns and villages in defiance of orders issued by the occupation army.

Israeli authorities say they closed the West Bank's 1,194 schools, including 145 schools for five- and six-year-olds, because they were breeding grounds for violent protests during the 18-month uprising.

Fifteen schools in the Gaza Strip have also been closed, but the army has not shut down the entire system.

Israel has come under increasing international pressure, including a call from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, to reopen classes when the closure order comes up for renewal June 19.

Israeli officials say they have met with Palestinians to discuss resuming classes, but that school officials failed to deliver the necessary assurances that violence would not erupt.

"We would like to see the schools open but without an escalation of violence and without an increase in danger that children would be injured in the process. That's our concern, and Mr. Baker's concern, as well," Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said in an interview.

Mixed results

Meanwhile, underground classes meet secretly in unused buildings, mosques, churches or even in the open air, shaded by a tree. But according to Arab educators, these "people's schools" have produced mixed results.

"The problem we face now is illiteracy and the youngest chil-

dren are suffering most," said Khalil Mahshi, principal of the Quaker-run Friends School in Ramallah.

"Normally you tackle the problem of illiteracy at age six. Now, instead of consolidating reading skills at ages seven to nine, we are dealing with children as old as nine years old who are illiterate," Mahshi said.

He said West Bank six- and seven-year-olds have attended school for just 23 days, while seven- and eight-year-olds have studied less than half a year during the past two years.

"These children were just learning the alphabet, and now they've forgotten it," Mahshi said.

The children studying in a cramped one-room stone house in Kafir 'Ain, a village of 1,000 located 40 kilometres north of Jerusalem, spent a recent science class drawing pictures of donkeys, chickens and camels.

Samir, a dark-eyed seven-year-old, carefully sketched two Palestinian flags onto the bump of his camel.

"I'd like to be able to read. It is important," he said in a small, serious voice. "Instead, I can draw a Palestinian flag."

Muad, an eight-year-old classmate, wrote his name in shaky Arabic script on a cracked chalkboard propped against a chair, then turned proudly to a visitor. "When our school was

open, we used to study writing a lot. I miss that," he said.

Children aged five- to 11-years-old in Kafir 'Ain study two hours each day, with two classes at a time sharing a room. There are no classes for older children, and the only teaching materials in evidence were two tattered primary-level science books, some coloured markers and two chalkboards.

Miss Mahmoud, only in ninth grade herself, conceded she has no teaching qualifications. "What I can give them is better than nothing, but it can't compare with what they'd be learning in school," she said.

Along with basic Arabic and math, instructor Manah Abbas says she also teaches a new subject called "national education" called for by uprising leaders in a leaflet last April.

"Jerusalem — forever the capital of Palestine," read one lesson written on the blackboard.

"I teach them about the intifada and how not to be afraid of the soldiers when they come to the village," said Miss Abbas. 20, who wore an enamel necklace showing the area denoted Palestine painted in the colours of the Palestinian flag.

According to Mahshi, the West Bank school system may never fully recover from the prolonged closure.



An outdoor class in the occupied West Bank.

Freed Belgian hostage flies home

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Freed Belgian hostage Jan Cools left Damascus for Brussels Friday after being freed from nearly 13 months' captivity in Lebanon.

Belgian Ambassador to Syria Andre Volckaer said Cools, 32, decided to go home late Thursday after a Belgian air force plane due to carry his parents and a medical team to the Syrian capital failed to obtain clearance.

Before leaving Cools was asked not to say anything which could prejudice the safety of the 22 foreigners still missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon.

Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Robert Urbain who negotiated the release during talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Palestinian leaders, left for Brussels on board the plane with Cools.

Cools, a Belgian doctor working for a Norwegian aid group in Lebanon, was kidnapped May 21, 1988, as he left the Rashidiyah refugee camp in South Lebanon.

A little-known group called the "Soldiers of Truth" said it kidnapped him. The group announced Wednesday it would release Cools in response to appeals from Qadhafi and the Fateh Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal.

After his release Thursday, Cools was escorted from the port of Sidon in South Lebanon to Damascus, telling reporters:

"This is the happiest day of my life."

In Brussels, Urbain said Friday his country had paid no ransom to free Cools.

When asked any ransom was paid, Urbain told a Belgian radio correspondent: "Absolutely nothing, absolutely nothing."

Urbain said Qadhafi had intervened "because he felt it was in the interest of all Arab countries to make a positive contribution and show generosity in winning the release of Dr. Cools."

The fact Belgium had not paid a ransom made Qadhafi's gesture "all the more significant and all

the more commendable," he added.

Cools working for the Norwegian Aid Committee (NORWAC).

The minister's success in winning Cools' release was seen by Friday's Belgian press as a snub to Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, due to resign Monday to enter the European Parliament.

Tindemans, a Christian Democrat, said Thursday Urbain's "socialist diplomacy" could lead to difficulties with Belgium's partners in the European Community (EC) which has agreed to restrict contacts with Qadhafi.

Cools' release leaves 17 other Westerners missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon, mainly by pro-Iranian factions.

The Western captives are nine Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, an Irishman and an Italian.

U.S. journalist Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held foreign captive. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

Cools was released to militia leader Mustafa Saad in Sidon. "Saad's Nasserite militia, a predominantly Sunni Muslim group, has controlled Sidon since Lebanon's civil war began in 1975."

Younis Amran, a representative of the Fateh-Revolutionary Council, said the Belgian doctor was freed at the request of Qadhafi and after "efforts by us."

The "Soldiers of Justice" said in their statement, "we hope this goodwill gesture will awaken the conscience of Western nations to support the causes of the oppressed, especially the people of Palestine, who are subjected to daily killings and destruction."

There has been widespread speculation in Lebanon that Cools was abducted by the Abu Nidal faction. Officials of Abu Nidal's group repeatedly have denied involvement in the kidnapping.

Mahdi seeks more funds to fight rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has told government economists to find more money to finance the six-year civil war against southern rebels, despite peace talks aimed at silencing the guns.

State Radio Omdurman Friday also quoted Mahdi as saying that Sudan's budget deficit would reach eight billion Sudanese pounds (\$1.8 billion) by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

The revised figure is nearly double the forecast by the government when it unveiled the budget in June last year.

It also reflected a dramatic increase in government spending after devastating floods last August and December wage increases, which cost two billion pounds (\$444 million).

"The present circumstances necessitate the definition of how to finance the war," Mahdi was quoted as saying.

"We are embarking on a peace strategy and we must now protect the unity and sanctity of the country," he added.

The radio said Mahdi, who is due to deliver a major policy speech to parliament Monday, was speaking Thursday to ministers and senior civil servants discussing the 1989-90 draft budget.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Thursday extended by two weeks its 45-day unilateral ceasefire, which had led to de facto truce since May in the bush war.

SPLA and government officials Monday ended talks in Addis

Ababa on ways to implement a tentative peace accord reached last year. They made no tangible progress but agreed to meet again next month.

Mahdi's disclosure of the much higher deficit highlighted problems facing economists charged with drafting next year's budget, expected to have a deficit of some seven billion pounds (\$1.5 billion).

Officials have said that there were plans to cut investment and hike customs tariffs and taxes to narrow the shortfall.

Lifting state subsidies on such basic items as sugar, wheat flour and petrol were ruled out as likely to trigger unrest.

With a foreign debt estimated at \$14 billion, Sudan's meagre resources are stretched to the limit by defence spending.

Its crumbling infrastructure has hampered efforts to tap agricultural potential while the civil war since 1983 has prevented a major oil find in the south being exploited.

Khartoum has been short of bread for months. Hundreds of people marched through the capital's twin city of Omdurman Tuesday, demonstrating against the lack of bread and other basic items.

The Federation of Sudanese Trade Unions has said that its one million workers will strike for three days from July 2 in protest against what it said was the government's failure to include private sector employees in last December's wage rises.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:05 Educational programme
17:30 The Friends
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 A play by Shakespeare
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Local programme
22:20 Arabic play
22:30 News in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Coubes
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 Natural Phenomena
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Growing Pains
21:30 Alfred Hitchcock presents
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:30 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Made for each other"

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:25 Sunrise
12:30 Dhuhur

CHURCHES

16:17 'Aur
19:48 Maghrebi
21:23 'Isha

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternassata Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772601
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815017, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Some clouds will appear at low altitudes and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Zaqlout 898140
Dr. Ahmad Al Daq 676473
Dr. Adnan Al Dibsi 826660
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nasoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY

DRBD:
Dr. Nabil Abu Al-'Ola (—)
Al Sharra pharmacy (985238)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 291228
Blood Bank 771211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 669131
Public Security Department 63021
Complaints 626800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 87467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 628100

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642818
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642818
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahdi, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 648345
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66112737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajra 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111126
Army, Marka 81611155
Queen Alia Hospital 80224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980732
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 Baghdad (IA)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Kuwait (RJ)
15:45 Baghdad (LN)
17:25 Riyadh (SU)
17:55 Rome (AF)
22:45 Paris, Damascus (AZ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Aqaba (RJ)
12:00 Tripoli (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Frankfurt, Brussels

Crown Prince calls for constructive dialogue among the country's youth

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday called for involving the youth in the building process, in an effort to positively face the challenges, and appreciate the initiative by Hisham Hijawi who contributed the total costs of a faculty building, named after him.

Addressing the 10th batch of graduates from the Yarmouk University, Prince Hassan called for constructive dialogue among the youth in various parts of the Kingdom and for involving qualified Jordanian personnel, currently working in the Gulf region, in the building and development process of their country.

Prince Hassan noted that such qualified people should contribute to the building of their own country and should be encouraged to utilise the investment opportunities available in Jordan.

Prince Hassan conveyed to the 3,000 graduates the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and informed them that King Hussein has inquired about the possibility of initiating constructive dialogue among Jordanian youth in the various parts of the country.

The Crown Prince noted that the major issues of the youth deal with the post-graduation period. Prince Hassan said the issue deals with what the youth would do after graduation, and what contribution they could make to their country's development.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday presents certificates to the Yarmouk University graduates (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan highlighted the role of the universities in spreading awareness among the future generations, through visits by university teaching staff to schools and holding discussions with students on cultural and scientific issues.

The University President Mohammad Hamdan said the university plays a distinguished role in serving the Jordanian society and interacting with it. It cooperates with Jordanian and Arab universities and international higher education and scientific institutions.

Hamdan congratulated the graduates and their families and said that the new batch of graduates is not but the fruit of cooperation in building the country and working towards its advancement.

He thanked Prince Hassan for his patronage of the graduation ceremony and pledged allegiance and loyalty to King Hussein.

At the end of the ceremony Prince Hassan presented the graduates with their certificates.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid, Higher Education Minister Naseruddin Al Assad and senior government officials.

Amman-Bonn ties are excellent, envoy says

Bonn to help Jordan with donor nations in rescheduling debts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — West Germany's contribution to Jordanian efforts to overcome its present economic difficulties will be mostly in the form of support for the Kingdom at various international agencies and bodies to reschedule its debts, according to the West German ambassador in Amman.

"We have realised that what Jordan needs today is not the traditional instruments of assistance that we have been extending over the years," said Ambassador Herwig Bartels. "Also, it is not credits but grants that Jordan requires, but this poses some difficulties for us," he said.

West Germany will be supportive of the Kingdom's efforts with the Paris and London club of creditor nations and international agencies and uses its influence as a major donor to these agencies to endorse the Kingdom's requests to reschedule its foreign debts, the ambassador said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

According to Bartels, Jordanian-West German relations have been and still are "excellent"

from the day the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1955. He pointed out that Jordan was the first Arab state to resume diplomatic ties with West Germany in 1967 after severing them in protest against Bonn's establishment of formal ties with Israel in 1965.

Jordan, recipient of the largest amount of West German aid in per capita terms, has received about DM 1.2 billion in direct and indirect assistance since 1955 — DM 850 million in financial aid and DM 350 million in technical assistance.

West Germany financed the construction of a new port facility at Aqaba and the railroad connecting the phosphate mines in the south with the port, Bartels

said. West German expert assistance at present is focused on the Kingdom's agricultural sector where the Federal Republic is involved in several projects.

Approximately 40 West German experts are assigned to Jordan to offer advice and expertise in various fields, again mostly in agriculture, the ambassador said.

According to Bartels, the fact that Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker's first visit to a non-European country after assuming office was to Jordan in early 1985 was significant of the importance Bonn attaches to its relations with the Kingdom.

"Also, it was under West German presidency that the 12 foreign ministers of the European Community (EC) invited His Majesty King Hussein to address them and present the Arab view of the conflict in the Middle East," he noted referring to the King's speech to the EC foreign ministers in Bonn in early 1988.

Parallel to economic and trade relations, Bonn and Amman have also nurtured strong cultural links, the ambassador said, pointing out that his country was in-

involved in dozens of projects related to Jordan's rich historical past and traditions. He cited as examples the setting up of a museum of archaeology and anthropology at Yarmouk University, the preservation of an Ottoman village at Umm Kais and the hosting of a touring Jordanian cultural exhibition in Cologne in 1987.

The hosting of the exhibition, entitled the Kings' Highway: 9000 Years of Culture in Jordan, as well as displays of traditional dresses from the collection of Mrs. Widad Kassar and works by Jordanian artist Ammar Khamash have contributed to Jordan's efforts to develop West German tourist interest in the Kingdom, and thus helped generate revenues for the country, Bartels said.

The ambassador, who assumed his post in Amman in 1985 after spending over 10 years in various other Arab countries — Egypt, Lebanon and Syria included — says he is very much at home in the Kingdom. "I have come to love this country," he said.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STATISTICS: A total of twenty six people employed at the Ministry of Culture and Information Thursday concluded a training course on culture and communication statistics held by the Ministry of Culture and Information in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The four-day course discussed matters related to qualitative information as well as analysis of statistical data related to the sectors of culture and communication. The participants recommended establishing a statistics bureau specialised in culture and communication at the ministry so as to collect data to be used by researchers. The participants also recommended ensuring jobs for statistics specialists at ministries and government departments. (Petra)

AQABA CELEBRATES ARMY DAY: Aqaba Thursday celebrated the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day anniversaries. The celebrations began with a march crossing the city streets. Speeches were delivered reviewing the significance of both anniversaries, poems were also read, and various folkloric dances were presented. On the occasion of these two anniversaries the Ministry of Youth will hold "the camp of the Great Arab Revolt" in Tafleh Governorate on June 20-25. Youths from the Arab Cooperation Council countries, Bahrain and Oman will participate in this camp. The camp activities will include seminars on the Great Arab Revolt, the Battle of Tafleh, the role of youths in serving and developing their societies and the role of Aqaba in the Great Arab Revolt. (Petra)

FRESH MILK PRODUCTION: The agricultural council has held a meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture and discussed the policy of producing and marketing fresh milk in light of the rise of production costs. The final recommendations in this regard will be issued during the council's weekly session Thursday. (Petra)

LAWZI RECEIVES U.S. ENVOY: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi has discussed with U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth bilateral relations and the existing cooperation, particularly in parliamentary affairs. (Petra)

COURSE ON TELECOMMUNICATION: A number of directors at the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) as well as eleven TCC directors from Iraq and North Yemen will participate Saturday in a three-week course on telecommunication. The course is intended to familiarise the participants with administrative affairs as well as issues related to telecommunication. (Petra)

TALKS ON OPEN EUROPEAN BORDERS: A committee comprising the governors of the Central Banks in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Tunisia as well as assistant secretary general for economic affairs at the Arab League General Secretariat and the president of the Arab Monetary Fund will hold a meeting Saturday in Tunis. The committee will study the effect of open European borders in 1992 on Arab trade on banking relations with the European Countries (EC). The committee will present a report in this regard to the next session of the Arab Socio-Economic Council due to convene in Tunis in September. (Petra)

USAID DEPUTY DIRECTOR LEAVES: Richard Johnson, deputy director of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission left Amman Friday, with his wife Brenda and their two children Matthew and Katherine. Johnson, who worked for the development of Jordan, will be travelling to Manila, Philippines, where he will be deputy director of USAID. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition on Jordan by Francis Chaverou at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photo exhibition on Bertolt Brecht's life and famous theatre performances at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Spotlight Germany" displaying works by eleven German photographers at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of contemporary Japanese posters at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photographs on Arabic and orientalist architecture by Radolph Hammadi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabaa at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ A poetry recital by Jordanian poet Ibrahim Nasrallah at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A German film entitled "Gedenking" (Commemoration Day) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Thursday presents a certificate to one of the doctors who participated in a six-week course on primary health care (Petra photo)

Jordan to develop 400 existing health centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas Thursday stressed the government's interest in developing the already existing 400 health centres and upgrading their services.

Addressing graduates, from a six-week training course on primary health care, held at the Allied Medical Professions Institute, Malhas said the ministry will hold similar training courses to doctors already working in health centres in addition to other doctors, who will be working in health centres.

Malhas pointed out that a three-year course of study will be introduced at the ministry's institute to qualify candidates to work in primary health care.

Following the completion of the three-year course, students will sit for a general examination, to be held by Jordan Medical Council, Malhas noted.

The minister disclosed his ministry's plan to hold training course for nurses in primary health care.

Malhas noted the role of the maternal and child health care centres and pledged the ministry's support for such centres, with a view to enabling them to provide the best services to citizens.

At the end of the celebration, Malhas presented certificates to the course participants, all of whom were newly-appointed doctors.

The course was aimed at briefing the newly-appointed doctors on the ministry's role in achieving the "health for all by the year 2000" target through primary health care services and developing doctors' skills.

The course tackled issues such as health administration and planning, sanitation, health education, occupational health and safety, nutrition, mother and child health services, school health services, communicable diseases, detection of epidemics, preventive programmes, pre-natal care, childhood diseases and other issues.

Jordan, Syria stress need to boost exports

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade, Ziad Innab and his Syrian counterpart Antoine Jubran Thursday signed minutes of the meeting, held on the sidelines of the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Company's general assembly.

The minutes stressed the need for intensifying efforts to promote marketing of products in both countries and to work towards exporting significant quantities abroad, in order to attract foreign currency, needed to finance and ensure the sustainability of operations in the white cement and carpet industries, now in operation.

The two sides also agreed to form a special committee to undertake a study on standardisation of specifications and metrology for local products, and to call representatives of chambers of

industries in both countries for a meeting within a month.

They also agreed that the higher joint committee on coordination should meet during the same period to discuss scopes of cooperation and coordination in the industrial field.

The two sides further agreed to hold a meeting for officials from both countries to work out a balanced deal covering industrial items produced in both countries, and to prepare for holding an industrial exhibition in both countries, with a total value of \$1 million for each side.

The Syrian minister left Amman later Thursday at the end of a three-day official visit to Jordan during which he attended the Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Company meetings and discussed scopes of cooperation in the economic and industrial fields with a number of Jordanian officials.

Amin heads council meeting on Amman development

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Thursday stressed the need for drawing up practical plans that take into consideration the available resources and the prevailing circumstances.

Addressing heads of the development areas in the Amman provincial council and members of the four specialised committees during a meeting at the governorate, Amin said that adherence to the available resources is a prerequisite for drawing up studies and plans or expanding them, taking into account the availability of required manpower and expertise, in addition to production elements.

"The flexibility of plans is contingent to their adjustability during the execution phase and on their ability to overcome difficulties



Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Thursday chairs a meeting of the Amman Provincial Council (Petra photo).

ties and to give the implementing bodies the freedom to act within limits," Amin noted.

He pointed out that coordination among the various implementing bodies and the concerned institutions contributes to facilitating work and achieving the objectives.

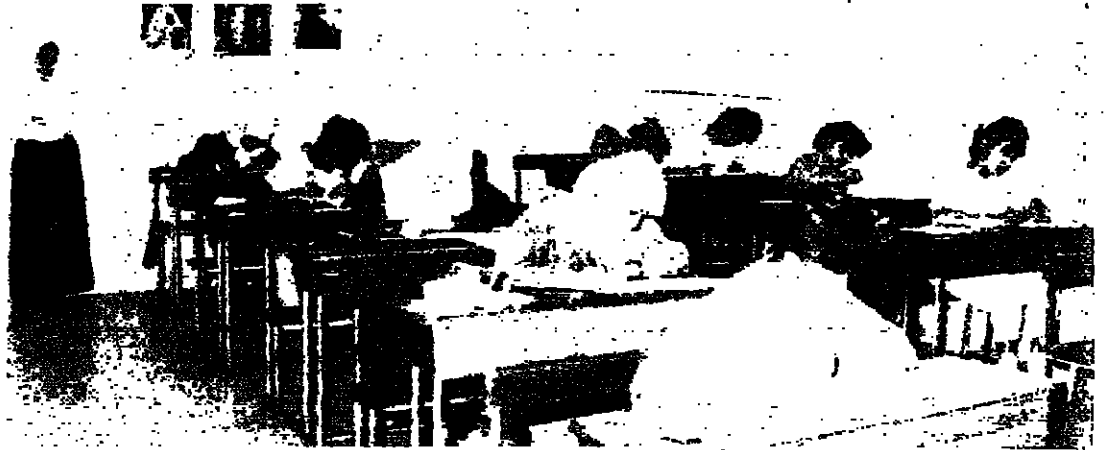
The governor called on the four specialised committees to get first hand information of the problems of the production sector by paying special visits to their work sites, to draw up their own perceptions and to make recommendations on how to develop production and improve performance.

He emphasised the need for initiating dialogue with citizens, because they form the centre of the whole development process, and consequently they have the right to participate in taking the constructive decisions that best serve the public interest.

58,618 students sit for Tawjihi exams

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 58,618 students from the various schools in Jordan are now taking their General Secondary Examination (Tawjihi) in 768 halls distributed throughout the Kingdom, according to sources at the Ministry of Education.

The sources added that the figure includes 34,516 students from the literary stream, 15,263 students from the scientific



Students are seen taking Tawjihi examinations in one of the 768 halls distributed throughout the country (Petra photo)

stream, 5,148 students from the commercial stream, 239 students from the agricultural stream, 2,739 students from the industrial stream and 595 students from the nursing stream.

The examinations run until June 26, when the students finish their last examination.

This year the Ministry of Education has arranged with the Tunis-based Arab League to hold the examinations for 50 students attending the Arab League school — Al Arabia School — and the Jerusalem School, run and operated by the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Head of the Examinations Department at the Ministry of Education Abdul Rahman Shbeilat has said that the correction of the Arabic League examination for the Tawjihi students will begin Saturday.

He added that the Ministry assigned 3,400 teachers to correct all the examination subjects and that the correction of all papers of each subject lasts between eight and ten days.

TCC cuts JD 32 m. to support economic measures

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport and Telecommunications Minister Hikmat Khammash Friday said that the cabinet's decision to cut capital spending in the services sector, including the telecommunication sector, was warranted by the financial and monetary circumstances the Kingdom is now passing through.

He noted that such cuts are part of the economic plan adopted by the government, in line with its agreement with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to curtail government expenditure in an effort to alleviate Jordan's indebtedness.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Khammash said that the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) was the first to respond to this government and national trend, by cutting its spending from JD 104 million to JD 68 million.

The corporation, in line with the government's directives, has also submitted another study to the government, proposing to further reduce its spending from JD 68 to JD 40 or 30 million. He noted, the TCC is currently examining possibilities for further reducing expenses to lower levels, but at the same time keeping its excellent standard of performance which has been achieved through the years.

He noted that the corporation plan to expand vertically to achieve the maximum benefits of the existing infrastructure and to strengthen the trunk services in areas which are still served by semi-automatic switchboards.

He voiced hope that the corporation will be able to finalise its revision in two or three months, by which time, the corporation will be able to identify the actual capital expenditure needed to enable it to maintain its high standards of performance.

Given all these variables, Khammash noted, it was incumbent on the cabinet to take a decision, cancelling the Telecommunications Corporation's five-year development plan and consequently to cancel its contracts and agreements for consulting services and all other agreements for direct purchases, thus allowing the corporation to adopt an emergency plan in lieu of the five-year plan.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Warm winds over the 'cold war'

FOR ALL practical and technical purposes, the "cold war" in Europe is over, and the international community can expect a new era in East-West relations and interaction. This indeed is the message one gets from signals coming from West Germany after the visit this week of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. No doubt, the tumultuous welcome and mass jubilation that the visit drew from everywhere Gorbachev went, coupled with the finding of a poll that the pragmatic Soviet leader is even more popular in the country than some of the West German government leaders, bears testimony to the sentiments of the West German people. In more ways than one, the Gorbachev visit and the historic declaration that the two sides issued on global disarmament and European unity appears to have wiped the slate clean of 40 years of post-World War II tension, fierce hostility and frustration bordering on open despise and hatred, and militarised political tug-of-war between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic.

It may be a little difficult to envisage a "reunited Germany" as Gorbachev implied in his promise to "rebuild the European house," but, it is not an unattainable dream to see closer relations between the people across the East-West divide as represented by the Berlin Wall. Encouraging signs have already appeared of a gradual acceptance of the reality that despite political and ideological differences on the top their people share a common identity and culture and the new Soviet Union under the leadership of Gorbachev was only pointing them in the right direction. The danger lies in meddling from external sources, but then the Germans have shown that they are smart enough and capable enough to draw lines wherever the need arises, and are anxious to break away from the chains imposed on them by the victorious allies after World War II.

We, along with all peace-loving people, cannot but see and welcome the Soviet-German rapprochement as part of an overall international process which is slowly gnawing away at Western perceptions of a perpetual Soviet military threat to Europe. The new-found superpower detente, emerging solutions to decades-old regional conflicts, speeded up efforts to slash nuclear arsenals and other weapons of destruction, new modus vivendi between old foes and reforms towards democracy in the Eastern bloc are all pieces in the jigsaw puzzle, further accentuated by the realisation that the Kremlin is giving due and serious attention to the much more important social and economic priorities at home. It is apparent that the outside world can do a lot to help the Soviet Union as well as the rest of the Eastern bloc states to arrive at practical democracy-based solutions to their problems, which, if let unaddressed properly, could encourage headline Communist leaders to return to their non-compromising stands on the external front and undo what has already been achieved since Gorbachev took over the Kremlin helm. Such solutions could not be formulated overnight, but creative Western contributions will accelerate the process and, hopefully, erect hard hurdles in any reverse course.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic dailies Friday tackled the Alexandria summit meeting grouping the heads of state of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. The papers hailed the meeting as part of the four countries' continued endeavour for unity among the countries of the Arab World.

Egypt is hosting this meeting only a few weeks after it had been welcomed officially by the Arab League to rejoin the Arab fold, said Al Ra'i in an editorial. The paper noted that Egypt is thus resuming its leading role in national affairs and paving the way for a strong and close cooperation with Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen in a manner that would ensure development and progress in the Arab area. In his address to the opening session King Hussein noted that the Arab Cooperation Council's first meeting in Baghdad served as a first step towards the aspired unity but that the Alexandria meeting contributed the practical move towards defining the Arab Cooperation Council's future plans that would ensure the fulfilment of the Arab people's aims and objectives, the paper added.

Only four months after the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad, the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen are meeting in Alexandria in a display of determination to go ahead with plans that serve the Arab nation as a whole, says columnist Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Ra'i daily newspaper. The writer notes that since it is not possible for the Arab League states altogether to take immediate steps towards integration at the moment, the four Arab countries have found it more feasible to take a more direct approach and embark on measures that would ensure further cooperation. Rimawi adds that the four leaders are now finding ways for facilitating the flow of capital, manpower, and trade and for bolstering economic and cultural ties. These essential steps leading to integration which is also one aspect of the aspired unity. The four leaders are also determined to open the way for the nationals of their countries to be given priority in employment, university education and trade dealings — thus setting a good example for any future pan-Arab integration or unity, says the writer.

Al Dustour daily also commented on the Alexandria meeting and said that joint action, and consensus on ways in handling economic and political issues and charting plans for the future are all on the minds of the leaders of the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The paper said that the summit, coming close after the Casablanca meeting which witnessed the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, is seen as a very significant move towards bolstering Arab relations and a new momentum for all Arabs wishing to forge unity among the Arab states.

The following is the second part of the text of the speech delivered at the Peace Now rally in Tel Aviv June 3.

SHOULD THE day come when thousands and tens of thousands refuse to go to the territories to carry out the oppression of the population there — the government of occupation will collapse. However, at that time, the last links holding this society together will burst. Seven times a day we restrain ourselves from leaping up and shouting, "Enough! We won't have any more of this." Do not make the mistake of interpreting our public responsibility as dithering, our restraint as acquiescence.

We are not dithering. We are exercising self-control. The reason for this self-control is the realisation that, should Israel be forced to leave the territories because of internal pressures as well as external pressures, it might arouse appetites among the extreme and fanatic Arab elements who will not stop at any border. It's a sense of responsibility that holds us back. For now, these warnings must be sounded in unambiguous language: we do not want the nation to be ripped apart — but under no circumstances whatever will we acquiesce in the transformation of our country into a monster. And we will not allow them to use us to serve as the fangs and claws of the monster.

One more point: if any of you have been toying with the hope of solving it all with some sort of swift and drastic action — transfer or other mass war crimes — you had better realise that such a thing will not happen. Not because the "world" won't stand for it, not because of the danger of the situation deteriorating into all-out war, but because — very simply — we will not allow you to commit transfer or other crimes against humanity. Even if we have to lie down under the wheels of the lorries. Even if we have to blow up the bridges.

However, it's not the insane cult that I would like to address now, but rather our normal opponents, the hundreds of thousands of Israelis who believe that giving up territories constitutes a death

threat to the state.

My dear hawks: I believe the sincerity of your doubts and suspicions, I do not make light of your reasons, and I ask that you, too, make the emotional and intellectual effort to understand the depth and sincerity of the hundreds of thousands of Israelis like ourselves, who are convinced that the continuation of the occupation and the wars to come are a death threat to this country.

You are not an incited mob; we are not defeatists and traitors. You are Israelis who want a Greater Israel and do not believe in peace with the Arabs; we are Israelis who are convinced that now is the time to begin to make peace within the framework of leaving the territories — otherwise there will be an unparalleled disaster. This disagreement will have to be solved fairly quickly, by means of debate and persuasion and not by means of terror, defamation and hysteria.

Do you want to convince us that in fact there is no one with whom to hold talks? Then let us sit down and negotiate with our enemies — all our enemies — and find out whether or not there is in fact someone with whom to make peace. We'll try it and see. All this — on condition that with respect to everything having to do with pogroms, sadists and Jewish murderers — you take a stand together with us, shoulder to shoulder.

Furthermore: let us work together in the struggle to rescue Judaism from those who want to turn it into Hizbollah, and Zionism from those who want to turn it into Abu Nidal, and the State of Israel from those who are turning it into a monster. Put simply, I call upon you of the sane Right to take a stand together with us in defence of the common core: Thou shalt not kill. And there, "Thou shalt not kill" is stated plainly, without any sub-clauses permitting the killing of an Arab girl or a leftist Jew.

For decades, the Palestinian national movement took a fanatical, extreme and inflexible stance.

'Thou shalt not kill'

WHY ARE OUR TROOPS KILLING PALESTINIAN KIDS ON THE WEST BANK?



BUT THESE ARE SCHOOL CHILDREN! THEY AREN'T PLO GUERRILLAS!



OUR SOLDIERS ARE DEFENDING THEMSELVES AGAINST ROCK-THROWING MOBS



AND THEY WON'T BE



WASSERMAN © THE PUNCH GROUP

It was undeterred by any form of slaughter, including the slaughter of its own people, and was not prepared to give up an inch. May God preserve the nation of Israel if it adopts a similar stance, now that the Palestinians are perhaps beginning to shake themselves free of the insane opinions which brought down upon them, and upon us, a tragedy that has lasted for 80 years. May God preserve the nation of Israel from stepping straight into the shoes out of which the PLO is trying to step at this very moment.

And perhaps when peace finally comes, all of us, Israelis and Palestinians, will have to build a joint monument to our stupidity

and blindness. Every child knows that, ultimately, Israel will today get less than it would have got five, 10, 15 years ago from an advantageous position of vision and generosity — whereas they, the Palestinians, will ultimately get only a small part of what they might have got peacefully and honourably more than 40 years ago.

Only the dead will get nothing — apart from wilting flowers. And let us hope that on the day that peace comes, all of us, Jews and Arabs, will not have to wipe the spit of the dead from our faces.

Peace will come, perhaps, when another hundred thousand

Israelis are convinced that our way is the right one, the logical one and the responsible one. Therefore, we must go forth now — and tomorrow, and the next day — to all the places where there are concentrations of people who do not agree with us. True, in some of those places they are not awaiting us with flowers. And it isn't easy to change minds. But those are the places we must go now: after all, our goal is not that each one of us, individually, will feel a bit better and a bit prouder — but rather to work for the coming of peace.

And peace, like war, begins and ends in people's hearts. If we

do not soon reach the hearts and minds of more and more Israelis — the monster will get them, and us. There will be no dialogue between Israel and Palestine if we do not manage to talk with at least some of our opponents — and convince them. We must not hesitate to enter into this dialogue and we must not evade it. In a dialogue between us and the Israelis who hesitate, we have a chance to succeed — because we speak in the name of undistorted Judaism, in the very name of the Zionist idea, in the name of logic. Moreover: we come in the name of life and peace.

— The Jerusalem Post

Afghan guerrillas still threat to Kabul government

By Jeremy Clift
Reuters

KABUL — Afghan guerrillas have failed to produce a knock-out punch but recent attacks on provincial cities show they remain a potent force against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, diplomats said.

The battle-hardened Muslim guerrillas are mounting a series of localised attacks along a 600 kilometre front from the southern city of Kandahar to the eastern

town of Jalalabad, the government says.

Since failing in their original objective of capturing Jalalabad, the country's third largest city, as a base for a Mujahideen interim government last March, Pakistan-supplied guerrillas have taken the 10-year Afghan conflict into a new phase.

Refusing offers of peace negotiations from Kabul following the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, the rebels are

broadening their attacks and have turned down suggestions from Afghan President Najibullah for a ceasefire.

Hitting across the mountainous border with Pakistan, the anti-Communist rebels have laid siege to the eastern garrison town of Khost and also attacked the city of Gardez to the south of the Afghan capital.

So far this month, an Afghan government spokesman has reported heavy rebel rocketing of

Kandahar and sporadic attacks into Zabol and Ghazni provinces also along the border.

"They failed to produce the knock-out blow by capturing Jalalabad, so now they are trying to spread out and dilute government forces by attacking along a broader front," said one Kabul-based diplomat.

"They can keep this up so long as the weapons convoys keep coming across the border."

Western correspondents have reported continued fighting around the western city of Herat, where the Mujahideen appear to control parts of the ruined north-western sector of the town.

"While the government has broken a rebel blockade of the capital that produced severe food and fuel shortages earlier in the year, guerrillas continue to hit Kabul with rockets, although in an apparently random manner."

The Kabul government spokesman, who rarely admits government casualties, has reported 10 Afghan servicemen killed and 18

injured in fighting in the eastern border provinces of Nangarhar and Khost, around Herat in the west, and in Parwan province north-west of the capital since last week.

At least one million people have died in the 10-year conflict which has created five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

The government puts rebel casualties in the hundreds every day, saying that many guerrillas die in air strikes and artillery bombardment by Afghan government forces, but there are few independent accounts of the fighting.

Despite the Soviet withdrawal, the Mujahideen still refuse to talk with the Moscow-backed government of President Najibullah, holding his Communist-based People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan largely responsible for the conflict.

But the use of air power by the Kabul government has given it a major strategic advantage, with

its Soviet-supplied MiGs making dozens of sorties a day against guerrilla concentrations around Khost, Jalalabad and Kandahar.

Afghan pilots say they have learnt how to deflect with flares U.S. stinger anti-aircraft missiles which initially downed scores of Soviet helicopters when they were first provided to the guerrillas by Washington.

The Afghan military has also made increased use of Soviet long-range Scud missiles against the Mujahideen. At least three have strayed off-course into Pakistan.

Kabul has alleged that the Mujahideen offensive against the university city of Jalalabad, which commands the road from the Khyber pass to the capital, was backed by Pakistani artillery across the border, a claim flatly denied by Islamabad.

Islamabad intelligence apparently pressed the guerrillas into attacking Jalalabad, shortly after Soviet forces left Afghanistan.

Hard road ahead on troop cuts

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. defence officials say it could be two years or more before any tanks are cut up for scrap in Europe despite soothing public statements from the White House and the Kremlin on East-West military cuts.

A NATO group is now fine-tuning President George Bush's proposal for force cuts in the region, a plan scheduled for the negotiating table in September. But officials say tough debate still lies ahead before such plans can be put into practice.

"Public hopes go way up with early signs of progress. But there are tough negotiations between proposals and agreements," said one of the defence officials who travelled to Brussels with U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney last week.

"Talking parity is especially tough. Each side wants to be sure that a small mistake in a weapons category doesn't give the other a key advantage," said another official.

Cheney himself told reporters returning from the NATO defence ministers meeting with him that combat aircraft were an especially delicate issue.

"Aircraft are clearly a difficult subject to deal with, both within the alliance and (with) the Warsaw Pact," he said.

Proposals from Bush and from Moscow are close in some respects in that NATO and Warsaw Pact tanks would be cut to a total of 20,000 on each side and armoured personnel carriers would be cut to 28,000 a side. Artillery would also be reduced to about 16,500 pieces a side, although there are differences in the way that the two sides count such weapons. NATO counts only pieces of at least 105mm, while the other side adds in smaller weapons.

"The Soviets are, indeed, making major concessions in the area of tanks and other equipment," said one Pentagon official, noting the current NATO count of over 50,000 Warsaw Pact weapons in Europe.

Bush's proposal, which has been generally endorsed by NATO and will be presented to

the Warsaw Pact when talks resume in September, would leave a total of about 4,600 combat aircraft and 2,300 military helicopters on each side.

The United States says the East Bloc now has about 8,000 combat aircraft, excluding trainers, and that the West has about 5,400 aircraft.

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A historic turn in post-war Europe

By P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The visit this week to West Germany of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev constituted the most important historic turn in post-war Europe, within the context of East-West relations as well as Soviet-German ties, and signalled an end to 40 years of tension, according to the West German Ambassador to Jordan.

"The cold war has come to an end" with the first state visit to West Germany of the pragmatic Soviet leader, said Ambassador Herwig Bartels. Post-war Europe has entered a "new historic phase," heralding a "better future for the world" — both in terms of disarmament and the emerging East-West interaction, the ambassador told the Jordan Times in a wide-ranging interview covering global disarmament, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jordanian-West German relations and the Middle East peace process.

According to Bartels, the tumultuous welcome extended to Gorbachev by the people of West Germany — a front-line state bristling with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defences pitted against the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact military might — is symbolic of the significance Bonn attaches to the rapprochement with Moscow. By extension, it

also signifies the fruitful culmination of Germany's quest to rediscover its traditional role as a go-between the East and West after having strained for 40 years under the throes of the "cold war," added the ambassador.

Bartels was highly enthusiastic when discussing how his country attaches great hopes to Gorbachev's vision and his promise to "rebuild the European house" and finds highly positive notes in the "democratic changes" in the Soviet Union, Poland and Hungary. Obviously, the possibility of a symbolically reunited Germany as inherent in the Soviet leader's promise is a highly attractive prize for most West Germans, politicians or otherwise, who found their country split into two and relegated to the lowest rungs of international political power after World War II. Reports in the West German and European press suggest that the price Bonn will have to pay is probably neutrality in return for a "reunited" Germany, which will elevate the country politically and vindicate the post-war years that it had to lay dormant despite its growing economic and industrial clout in the international scene.

However, notes the ambassador, West Germany remains very much committed to strong defences for Western Europe and Gorbachev's highly successful visit will have very little bearing on this

national commitment. At the same time, he expresses hope that the three-pronged NATO approach favoured by West Germany towards disarmament — cuts in conventional weapons, reductions of nuclear missiles, particularly short-range weapons, and scaling down the number of troops facing each other across the East-West divide — will be successful and thus justify his country's new-found confidence in Gorbachev and the winds of change sweeping the East Bloc.

Relaxing in an armchair in his spacious garden, the chain-smoking ambassador quoted from spythriller writer John le Carré's *Russia House*: "There will be one day when the governments realise that the desire of the people for peace is so strong that they will have to give in and let the people have peace."

"Mind you," he adds, "it's translated from German and (hence) will not be the exact quotes in so many words in English."

For West Germany, with the enigma of the two worlds war attached to it, disarmament is more of a "deep moral issue" than anything else just as its policy of non-supply of weapons to areas of tension around the globe, Bartels said. The controversy over West German arms sales, whether to the Arab states, Israel or any other country elsewhere, should be seen in this context

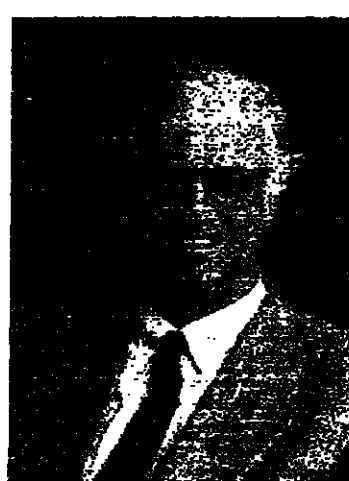
rather than state politics, he added.

Recognition of Palestinian rights

According to the ambassador, West Germany is as committed as — if not more than — any other member of the 12-member European Community (EC) to finding a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He recalls that West Germany was among the first European states to call for the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

However, that position does not extend to recognising the State of Palestine declared by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in November last year. The ambassador bases the West German position on "the internationally accepted parameters governing the recognition of any state — identity of the people, well-defined borders and territory and an executive authority" — which the State of Palestine falls short of at this point in time. However, the Bonn government wholeheartedly welcomed the resolutions adopted by the PNC, he pointed out.

By the same token, it is also highly unlikely that the federal government, for the time being, will invite Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, to visit West Germany, he



Herwig Bartels

said. French President Francois Mitterrand was the first West European leader to receive Arafat after the PLO chairman reaffirmed the moderate approach to peace as adopted by the PNC.

Bartels said the opposition Social Democrats of West Germany were considering a possible invitation to Arafat to visit the country in a bilateral but non-governmental context. He did not give any details.

While Bonn remains committed to the common EC approach and strategy towards the Middle East conflict and is anxious to find an end to the problems of the region, it is reluctant to assume the role of "the most open advocate" of

any form of a peace settlement, according to the ambassador. Obviously, for first informers, the West German sensitivity towards issues touching Israel, a sentiment partly shared by its partners in the EC, comes into play here.

But, Bartels says, it is not so. According to the ambassador, the very fact that West Germany strongly endorses the EC approach to the conflict supports his argument. "West Germany is in full and total agreement with the EC position that a settlement should come through an international peace conference on the Middle East and (Bonn) does not accept the Israeli line in this respect," Bartels said. He pointed out that West German leaders and politicians have repeatedly said that Israel has to relinquish territory in exchange for peace.

While West Germany staunchly supports the Palestinians' right to self-determination, it leaves it exclusively to the "Palestinian people to decide the form in which they should exercise the right."

Balancing views

Turning to West Germany's relations with Israel, seen against the backdrop of World War II and Nazi Germany, Bartels says it was "a moral breakthrough" for his country to establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish state in 1965. "What we have been seeking is normalised rela-

tions" between people to people, he said. In the same light, most West Germans always saw the Palestinian struggle in a "negative" context tainted with "terrorism" until the Palestinian uprising broke out in December 1987 and brought home the reality of the situation and helped create "a balanced view."

"Until the intifada, the focus of attention was on Israel and there was this negative quality attached to the Palestinian struggle," he said. "Now, thanks to the media, more understanding and a clearer picture is in focus, resulting in an overwhelming sympathy with the victims of the events."

West Germany had been and continues to be a donor of material and financial aid to the Palestinian people through various international agencies as well as direct channels. Its contribution to the Palestinian revolt is mainly in the form of medical assistance to the victims of Israeli violence, the ambassador said.

West Germany has also helped set up social and economic projects to help Palestinians in the occupied territories, he pointed out and cited a recent West German-Italian project to build a sewerage network in the Bethlehem-Beit Jalla-Beit Sahour area with a Bonn contribution of at least DM 6 million.

In fact, the Bonn government changed some of its legal and administrative framework

to overcome obstacles posed by the absence of a legally acceptable executive authority and be able to extend aid to the Palestinian people, according to the ambassador. "That should be a pointer to our interest and keenness to help them," he added.

In reply to a question, he said West Germany sees imports of Palestinian produce from the occupied territories strictly as a commercial matter. "It is no more a political issue, after the EC pressured Israel into lifting its restrictions on Palestinian produce being directly sold to the European markets. Now, a West German importer will buy oranges from Gaza if the quality is better than those from Morocco or vice-versa."

The ambassador was referring to a row between the EC and Israel over direct Palestinian exports from the occupied territories. Israel had vetoed such direct deals. After a long political stand-off during which the European Parliament suspended endorsement of several aid agreements and threatened more similar action, Israel agreed to lift its restrictions on direct exports to Europe by Palestinians of their produce in the occupied territories.

Does it serve as a precedent for European twisting of the Israeli arm as and when necessary?

The ambassador would only smile and decline comment.

Christina Zahida Sabouni in concert

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation will present a piano recital by the Syrian-Hungarian pianist Dr. Christina Zahida Sabouni on 17th June. It will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

This recital is part of a programme the Jordan Conservatory of Music is working on, to introduce Arab talent in the field of classical music to the Jordanian public. The recitals presented are to show the high standard that can be reached by those of us who would try hard enough, given the right education.

Christina Zahida Sabouni was born in Budapest to a Syrian Arab father and a Hungarian mother. Her first experience in music was obtained through her mother, a music teacher, who made her start at the early age of six. She continued her musical

studies with great Soviet teachers at the Music Conservatory in Damascus and spent her summers in Budapest and in the Finnish capital, Helsinki, taking more music courses here.

Just like the composers whose music she plays (Liszt etc.) she started her career at a very young age. She won an international award for her performance at the age of nine and held her first solo performance when she was only twelve. At sixteen, she joined the Finnish Philharmonic Orchestra and was awarded a scholarship by the joint Syrian/Hungarian ministries of culture to enable her to study music with George Cziffra. She was awarded her Masters degree in 1987 by the Cziffra Foundation.

Music is not the sole thing on her mind. Sabouni managed to study medicine at the faculty of

medicine in Damascus from which she graduated in 1988. She hopes to go further in both her medical and musical studies.

Her performance tonight will include Rondo (Opus II) by Johann Hummel (1778-1837) a member of the Viennese school of piano known for their delicate rendering. The Rondo is light but has a vivid if not theatrical ending.

Next come the Sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757), originally Neapolitan, son of the famous composer Alessandro Scarlatti, born in the same year as Bach and Handel, he lived in Portugal as the teacher of the Infanta Anna Barbara, future queen of Spain. He followed her to Madrid when she married Prince Ferdinand of Spain, and remained in the service of the Spanish court there, composing most of his 550 Sonatas up to his

death. His Sonatas were written for the harpsichord which is why we can find every imaginable shading of harpsichord sonority, every resource of harpsichord technique adapted to the piano. Some of his Sonatas are virtuosic pieces of formidable difficulty, while others are quiet pastoral-like movements. Changing moods, reminiscences of Italian, Portuguese and Spanish dance rhythms pervade them. That is why their rhythmic vitality is combined with an exuberant flow of thematic invention. Because this Sonatas absorb and transfigure so many of the sounds of the world, and because he treats texture and harmony freely with a view to sonorous effect, Scarlatti's music may be termed "impressionistic" although it has none of the vagueness implied by that term. All his Sonatas are organised by means of tonal rela-

tionships into the standard late Baroque binary pattern used for dance pieces, i.e., two sections, each repeated the first cadencing in the dominant (major) key the second modulating further and returning to the tonic. There is always a contrast between the tense, rapidly modulating central portion and the broad relaxed, cadential closing periods.

These Sonatas are followed by the "Liebertraume" of Franz Liszt (1811-1886) who stands among the most brilliant composers of the Romantic era. A child prodigy like our pianist, he played in Paris when he was only twelve, he is said to have "set the world on fire." He would henceforth be called "Master Liszt."

After concert-touring Europe and winning the admiration of the multitudes, he settled in Weimar. He ended his life in Rome as a

priest. His piano style is based on Chopin's, he took his repertoire of pianistic effects, of course adding new ones of his own with lyrical melodic qualities. Actually, a considerable amount of Liszt's piano music was transcriptions and arrangements, even fantasies on, say Schubert's songs, the symphonies of Berlioz (to whom he was a benefactor) and Beethoven, Bach's organ fugues and Wagner's music dramas, even Paganini's caprices for violin. He had totally independent works, nineteen Hungarian Rhapsodies based on Gypsy music of his country of birth to which he yearned constantly. His best compositions were short piano pieces which negate the all too common impression that Liszt was only concerned with bravura effects.

After the intermission, Christ-

ina Zahida will play popular pieces by Frederic Chopin (1810-1849), another Romantic composer. Two waltzes (Nr 4, F major and Nr 5, A flat major), a Nocturne (in F sharp major) and a Fantaisie-Improvisation (Op.66, in C sharp minor). Chopin's most intimate works. It is interesting to mention that although Chopin was a concert pianist, he was not an overwhelming, theatrical performer. It is even probable that other virtuosos can project the heroic, emotional or even intimate side of his music more emphatically than he himself was able to do, or even wanted to do. His works always demand of a player a flawless touch and technique and an imaginative use of the pedals, also a discreet application of what is called *tempo rubato*, a slight pushing or holding back of the right-hand part within a phrase, while the left

hand accompaniment continues in strict time. Let us watch and listen to our pianist's own virtuosity and her rendering of Chopin's innovative sonorities.

The concert will end with a very popular tune, "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin (1898-1937). The American composer who managed to bridge the gap between popular music and the concert hall audience in the 1920s, using both jazz and Lisztian Romanticism.

Our pianist seems to have mesmerised audiences in Damascus at various occasions, let us wish her all the best as she presents the Jordanian public with the tantalising pieces she has chosen. Would this be, then, an encore of the conservatory's choice of a good performer?

By Nelly Lama

By Caren Ross
Reuters

NEW YORK — New York City has launched the first floating jails in the United States to beat chronic overcrowding in its prisons.

The city is putting hundreds of inmates on two barges docked along the banks of the East

River.

They are vastly different from convict ships used by Britain and other countries to transport prisoners in the 18th and 19th centuries. Many unfortunates died of disease or in shipwrecks and mutinies on board those vessels, notorious for brutality.

New York's floating jails, on the other hand, are winning

praise from prisoners and guards alike.

"This is a beautiful place," said prisoner Teodoro Espada on the morning he moved on board the 100-metre long, 400-bed, Bibby

Resolution.

"It's like a hotel. The pillows have extra fluff, the soap dishes are silverlike, and there's a nice wood table to write on," he said.

Espada said the barge re-

minded him of a cruise liner he once took to Puerto Rico, and a prison guard on board said he was reminded of his years in the navy.

The corridors are narrow and their ceilings low, but each cell

has its own shower, sink and toilet. Luxurious, the inmates said, compared with the squalid cells they had occupied at the city's prison on Rikers Island.

The windows are sealed with

steel mesh, iron bars separate cabin areas and the barge is permanently moored to a fenced-in dock, but there is still a sense of the sea on board the vessel.

From the open-air top deck the inmates can peer out at the statue of liberty, the Brooklyn bridge and tankers making their way out of the harbour towards the Atlantic. They use seafaring words like

port and starboard, bunk and bulkhead.

One prisoner even complained of queasiness as the barge rocked slightly over the wake of a passing ship.

City officials say the arrangement makes sense because river space is cheaper than land in New York and converting the barges is cheaper than building new jails



EXHIBITION: "Treasures of the desert" Hisma region — Southern Jordan. The Aqaba-Ma'an archaeological and epigraphic survey

has completed eight seasons of survey in Southern Jordan: Funded by the Australian research grants scheme of the Australian Department of Science

and Technology and the University of Sydney in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, the exhibition will last until June 20th.

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House passes historical rescue

Brady warns of weakening U.S. power in World Bank

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady warned senators Thursday that the United States may lose its power to veto major changes in the World Bank unless it starts to pay off the money it owes the bank.

"I can't overemphasize — this is a personal comment — how difficult it is to represent the United States... and still be in arrears. It's a situation in my opinion that we must regard seriously if we want to get things like the environment and the debt strategy done."

One sign of weakening in the U.S. position may have been the recommendation Wednesday by the board of executive directors of the International Monetary Fund, the sister organization of the World Bank, to admit Angola as the 152nd member.

The United States opposed Angola because of its restrictions on private enterprise and its failure to conciliate with anti-Marxist rebels.

Angola's membership in the fund will bring into the World Bank too.

The United States has 19 per cent of the voting power in the fund. In the past it has been able to get enough support from other member countries to provide the 30 per cent needed to veto a new member.

For changes in the basic charter of the World Bank the United States now has enough voting strength of its own for a veto. Brady said that as U.S. arrears continue to grow, it may not be able to meet the schedule for buying new shares in the bank.

Brady is asking the Appropriations Committee for \$1.637 billion in budget authority for the year beginning Oct. 1 for U.S. obligations to international financial bodies. He told the Foreign Operations Subcommittee that \$313 million of this would cover shortfalls from previous years.

In recent years, requests have been made of Congress for the

necessary money, but have not been pushed strongly.

In another development, the House passed a \$157-billion savings and loan bailout Thursday night, the biggest financial rescue in U.S. history, and supported President George Bush's demand for tough industry reforms.

On a 320-97 vote, the House approved the bailout to save the industry from a crisis caused largely by risky and often fraudulent lending of federally insured deposits, primarily in the states of Texas, California and Florida.

Fifty-one Democrats and 46 Republicans voted against the bill.

"The American taxpayers won a major victory today when the House voted for strong, tangible capital requirements..." said Brady. "They have taken a very positive step toward ensuring the resolution of the savings and loan crisis."

At the White House, Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said in a conference call to news organizations: "We are pleased by this bipartisan step toward final passage. ...we applaud the House leadership for moving this bill rapidly through the House."

The crisis among U.S. savings and loan institutions, which accept deposits and loan money, like banks, has been building for a decade. Their problems come from a combination of economic turmoil, uneven deregulation, sloppy government supervision and sometimes poor or fraudulent management.

The bill calls for spending a total of \$285 billion — including interest over the next 30 years — to close or merge between 450 and 600 of the nation's 2,938 savings and loans whose estimated losses total about \$100 billion.

Of the total spending, about \$157 billion would come from taxpayers and the balance from the industry, according to the General Accounting Office.

The vote on final passage of the bailout occurred after congressman Jim Leach of Iowa, the leading Republican crusader against savings and loan industry abuses in the House, won an amendment to eliminate several special-interest provisions benefiting specific companies.

Among the provisions eliminated were those aimed at helping Sears, Chemical Bank of New York, First Interstate Bank of Los Angeles, Citicorp, Merrill Lynch,

Paine Webber and other brokerage Houses; Citizens Federal Savings Bank of Miami and Great Western Savings Bank, one of the largest savings and loans in California.

Bush had threatened earlier Thursday to veto the measure if the House adopted an industry-sought amendment to give 241 thrift institutions a mechanism to escape having to raise \$6 billion in new capital as a hedge against future loan losses.

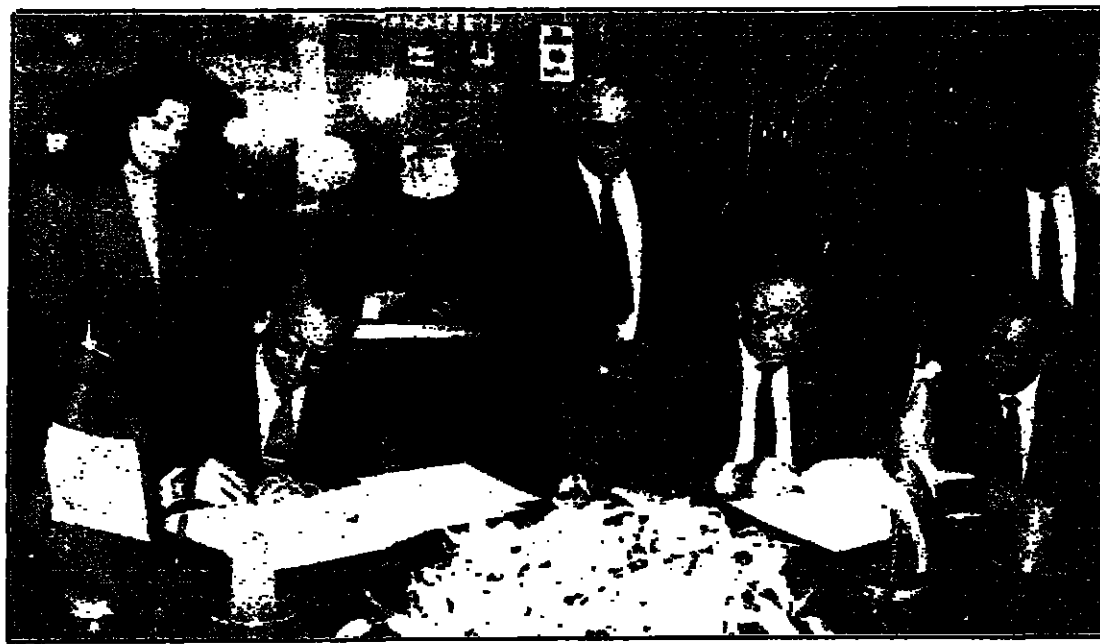
The amendment was defeated by a 326-94 vote after Bush issued his veto threat and Democrats repeated assertions that it would gut the reforms needed to prevent a recurrence of the crisis.

Delay and pay

"This amendment would have allowed weak institutions to delay and delay and delay the day of reckoning," said congressman Charles Schumer. "And while they delay and delay and delay, the taxpayers pay and pay and pay."

The bill next goes to a conference committee of lawmakers who will iron out differences from a Senate version approved two months ago.

With savings and loan losses mounting at a rate of nearly \$40 million a day, the administration wants the bill enacted into law before Congress takes its August vacation.



Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Innab (second from right) and Brazilian Ambassador Felix Baptista sign the economic agreement (Petra photo).

Jordan, Brazil to increase bilateral trade, cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Innab and Brazilian ambassador to Jordan Felix Baptista Thursday signed on behalf of their respective governments an economic agreement designed to enhance cooperation and increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

The agreement provides for facilitating the import and export of commodities from and to both countries and for granting exemptions from customs duties and other taxes for samples and promotional material and for items imported temporarily for

experimental and research purposes.

Under the agreement, Jordan and Brazil will also allow for holding exhibitions in accordance with the rules and regulations in force in both countries.

The two countries also agreed to exchange information and ideas on the best ways and means for promoting trade and facilitating passage of goods, originating from either country to a third country, or goods originating in a third country but are destined to either Jordan or Brazil.

Potash

The agreement provides for increasing exports of potash from Jordan to Brazil which imports 1,350,000 tonnes annually from the United States, Canada, Soviet Union and Jordan.

Jordan exported to Brazil 200,000 tonnes of potash in 1985, 167,000 tonnes in 1986 and 101,000 in 1987.

The agreement is also designed to boost scopes of cooperation in maritime transport and to revitalize the air transport agreement, already concluded in 1975.

Indonesia opens new tiny stock market

SURABAYA (Agencies) — Indonesia, home to one of Asia's least active stock markets, Friday opened its first private bourse here which share analysts and government officials hope will boost the country's fledgling capital market.

"With Surabaya we want to give a kick to the sleepy Jakarta market with some competition," said one analyst.

The Jakarta Stock Market had its first-ever boom at the end of last year but in recent months has been largely moribund except for new share issues which have all been heavily oversubscribed.

"I'm betting on Surabaya," said one analyst. "There are a lot of successful companies here and the further you are away from Jakarta the better."

Surabaya, in East Java, is the country's second largest city and boasts a rapidly expanding industry.

Speaking to reporters after the opening ceremony here, Finance Minister Johannes Sumarlin admitted that the lack of supply of shares has been a problem in developing the capital market.

Indonesia has targeted this area as one way to get the private sector to take the lead in economic development away from the

financially hard-pressed government.

However Sumarlin ruled out any early tax changes to encourage new listings. "At this stage I am not prepared to reconsider tax laws," he said.

Analysts say tax disclosure is a serious worry for companies hoping to list in a country where tax payment has traditionally been largely avoided. One suggested forgiveness of past taxes.

Financial reporting

"There is no doubt financial reporting is a major problem," said one.

However, the government is optimistic there will be lots of new companies going public despite the need for more open accounts.

Marzuki Usman, chairman of the capital markets executive board (Bapepam) which regulates the country's stock markets, said he expected 20 new listings this year.

Share analysts say the figure will more likely be no more than 10.

However, they noted that for companies a market listing is an attractive alternative to expensive bank loans and that under new banking reforms some firms have

been affected by limits on the amount one bank can lend to a single institution.

On the Jakarta market 24 companies are listed and the Surabaya market, which initially will trade for one and a half hours on weekdays, opened with two listings. Shares can be traded on either market.

The two Surabaya listings bring to 10 the total number of issues in which foreigners can invest.

Aid package of \$4.3b

Meanwhile, industrial nations and non-governmental organisations have approved a \$4.3 billion annual aid package for Indonesia, but pressed for further economic reform to guarantee stable growth in the South East Asian nation.

Total aid pledges by 15 nations including the Netherlands, the United States, and Japan exceeded last year's 4-billion package. Japan pledged the largest single amount — \$1.46 billion, while the United States pledged \$90 million.

The increase reflected the donor nations confidence in our economic policies and management," said Saleh Affif, Indonesia's minister of state for planning of national development and the

head of his nation's delegation to this year's donor nation conference.

Of the amount pledged this year, about 250 million will be in grants, while the remainder consists of loans at interest rates ranging from two to seven per cent, said Affif. He added that most of the aid was not tied to any specific projects.

Affif said that his country's burgeoning foreign debt had stabilised last year at about \$50 billion.

"We plan to lower our debt ratio by expanding the non-oil export sector and by prudent borrowing," Affif said. The Indonesian economy has hard-hit by the collapse of crude oil prices earlier in the decade, and expansion of the non-oil sector is seen as essential to economic recovery.

Currently, the debt amounts to 35 per cent of all Indonesian exports, a figure expected to go down to 26 per cent in the mid 1990s, he said.

Affif told the conference that his government's economic forecast for the coming years was based on an oil price of \$15 a barrel. The current price is about \$17.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Wildcat strike clogs London

LONDON (R) — Tens of thousands of commuters walked, jogged or cycled to work Friday when drivers on London's underground train network staged their sixth one-day strike in two months. Buses were packed and roads were clogged as commuters took to cars. The unofficial strike was a taste of worse to come. The underground drivers plan another strike for next Wednesday — this time backed by their union — at the same time as a national strike on the state-owned British rail system. The underground drivers are demanding extra money for running new driver-only trains without guards. Union leaders had appealed to them to work normally Friday. Several disputes, most over pay, are hitting British industry. Dock workers, passport officials and London bus drivers have staged strikes in recent weeks as inflation climbs steadily.

Big Chinese investment plan collapses

WELLINGTON (R) — Chinese plans to buy a high-technology steel mill in New Zealand, one of Peking's biggest ever foreign investments, have collapsed. Minmetals, a Chinese state corporation, said in a terse statement its purchase of New Zealand Steel had been called off. The sale of New Zealand's biggest steel producer, announced last April, was thrown into doubt as turmoil engulfed China. But as recently as last week, partners in the deal vowed it would go ahead despite banks' reluctance to finance Minmetals. Under a double deal, which should have been completed on June 30, Minmetals was to have bought 80 per cent of N.Z. Steel held by collapsed investment company Equiticorp.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, June 15, 1989				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	83.2 - 84.0
U.S. dollar	574.1	580.7	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.7 - 383.5
Pound Sterling	867.0	875.7	Dutch guilder	250.5 - 253.0
Deutschemark	282.0	284.8	Swedish crown	84.1 - 84.9
Swiss franc	326.3	329.6	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1 - 39.5
			Belgian franc (for 100)	134.9 - 136.2

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	June 10-14	June 3-7
Daily average	JD 1,517,904	JD 1,208,335
Total volume	JD 6,071,615	JD 6,041,164
Total shares	4,154,962	3,868,432
No. of contracts	4,127	4,275
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 4,490,239 (73.9%)	JD 4,290,947 (71%)
Financial	JD 745,376 (12.3%)	JD 638,748 (10.6%)
Service	(12.5%)	(15.4%)
Insurance	(1.3%)	(3.0%)
Share price index	129.0	127.2
No. of companies	62	65
Price movement (rise)	32	31
(decline)	14	20
(stable)	16	14

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australian shares drifted to be slightly easier by the close of floor trading in cautious, quiet trade ahead of the release Monday of May current account figures. The All Ordinaries index was 3.2 points lower at 1,529.9.

JAPAN — Late buying by investment trust funds and bargain-hunters pulled share prices out of negative territory to a higher close in light trade. The Nikkei index gained 142.08 points or 0.43 per cent to close at 33,055.17.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended marginally firmer after easing throughout much of the day. The Hang Seng index closed 2.39 points higher at 2,342.41.

SINGAPORE — The stocks market closed on a firm note with prices rising over a broad front, helped by a turnaround on the Tokyo stock market. The Straits Times industrial index recovered 8.23 points to close at 1,296.52.

BOMBAY — Heavy buying by investment trusts and bargain hunters helped shares shrug off a lethargic start and post sharp gains in brisk trading for new accounts. Tata Steel shot up 60 rupees to 1,385.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mixed in thin trade unsettled by violent swings in the dollar's value against the mark. The 30-share DAX index closed 0.12 points down at 1,426.54.

ZURICH — Shares closed firm in lively trade on the weak dollar and lower Swiss interest rates. The Swiss index ended 5.0 points up 1,078.

PARIS — Share prices ended sharply down after a surge of selling provoked by U.S. May consumer price figures. The 50-share price indicator ended 1.10 per cent down.

LONDON — Share prices held steady near the day's highs in late trading helped by modest gains on Wall Street and relief about inflation figures. By 1503 GMT the FTSE index was 9.7 points up at 2,138.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks remained narrowly mixed in some of the heaviest trading on record spurred by expiration of certain futures contracts and options. The Dow was up four points at 2479.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

LEWIS PREPARED TO JUMP FOR RECORD: Double Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis is prepared to go to altitude later this year in a bid to break Bob Beamon's legendary long jump world record. Lewis, who has always previously opposed the idea of jumping at altitude, told Reuters he hoped to compete in Sestriere, Italy, in August where he would attack the 21-year-old Mark Beamon set at the Mexico Olympics. "If they can work out the details of holding the meeting, it is a possibility," he said. "I have two major goals which are still there in my career. That's 29 feet (8.84 metres) and 9.9 (seconds, in the 100 metres). Hopefully I can get close or break those barriers this year." Beamon's leap of 8.90 metres (29 feet 2 1/2 inches), set at altitude in the 1968 Games, remains the oldest world record in athletics. Lewis clocked 19.82 seconds for 200 metres when he ran at Sestriere last year. But he did not long jump, having always shied away from taking advantage of the rarefied atmosphere of altitude. Lewis said he will also long jump at Lausanne on June 27, Stockholm on July 3 and New York on July 22 before a possible record attempt in Sestriere in August. (R)

CLARK SCORES PARENT FOR WIN: Jack Clark, yanked from the starting lineup because of a batting slump, had a pinch-hit single in the 12th inning, in San Diego scoring Mark Parent to give the San Diego Padres a 1-0 victory over the Cincinnati Reds Thursday. Parent singled with one out in the 12th off Tim Lincecum, 2-1, the fourth Cincinnati pitcher. After Garry Templeton singled Parent to second, Clark batted for reliever Greg Harris, 2-2, and Kent Tekulve relieved Birtus. "It was good for me to be out for a couple of days," Clark said. "It was a situation where I could get away from baseball and watch everybody else play." Harris struck out four in two innings in relief of Bruce Hurst, who pitched 10 innings, along with eight hits and one walk and striking out 10. Rolando Roomes kept the game scoreless for the Reds in the fourth inning.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠4 ♠73 ♠K6 ♠AQJ7632
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK643 ♠83 ♠AK982 ♠A
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K6 ♠AQ92 ♠Q873 ♠Q95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ762 ♠95 ♠73 ♠AKQ
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with four hearts. What action do you take?
A.—The prompt has done its job. Since your partner will almost surely lack sufficient spade length and high cards to act, you can't afford to pass the decision around to him. Bid four spades, but don't be surprised if you're doubled and have your head handed to you on a silver platter.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K6 ♠AQ92 ♠Q873 ♠Q95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.11—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.12—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.13—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.14—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.15—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.16—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.17—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.18—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.19—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Q.20—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♠763 ♠K52 ♠A872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass

Hurdles champ life-ban

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian hurdles champion Julie Rocheleau-Baumann has been banned from competition in Canada for life after testing positive for steroids use, sports minister Jean Charest said Thursday.

"The same policy that applied to Ben Johnson and the four weightlifters will apply to Julie Rocheleau, in exactly the same way," Charest told reporters outside the House of Commons. "The policy is automatic."

The four weightlifters Charest referred to were withdrawn from Olympic competition prior to last year's Seoul games after drug tests ordered by their national sports federation showed they had used steroids.

Johnson was stripped of his gold medal in the 100 metres at the games and is also banned for life. He has admitted using

steroids to an inquiry into the use of illegal drugs in sport.

Rocheleau-Baumann tested positive last month for steroids under the Track and Field Association's new programme which gives athletes no notice that they will be tested.

A urine sample she produced on May 2 in Bern, Switzerland showed she had been using stanozolol — the same type of steroid that cost Johnson his gold medal in Seoul.

Like Johnson, Rocheleau-Baumann can appeal the lifetime ban to the sports minister after serving a two-year suspension imposed by the Canadian Track and Field Association.

Under the government's doping policy, athletes caught using banned substances lost all federal funds and eligibility to take part in federal sports programmes for life. The policy has been in place since 1985.

Lawyer admits steroid abuse

TORONTO (AP) — After 60 days of hearing some of Canada's finest athletes admit to lying, cheating and drug abuse, Justice Charles Dubin appeared to have heard enough when one of his own admitted that he, too, had been a steroid user.

The 68-year-old judge, who heads a federal inquiry into drugs in sport and the Ben Johnson affair, has sat patiently listening as the cheaters, including Johnson himself earlier this week, told their stories.

But none struck quite so close to home as that of Rob Gray, a champion discus thrower turned lawyer who spent four hours Thursday confessing his use of the same muscle-building drugs that cost Canadian sprinter Johnson an Olympic gold medal and world record.

"You know it's cheating," the diminutive justice told the 6-foot-2, 260-pound Gray, who failed a drug test and is under a life

suspension from the sport. "You aspired to a professional life. How could you?"

"Your desire to win takes over everything," Gray, 32, replied.

That did not satisfy Dubin, a shoemaker's son who spent 29 years as a defence lawyer before moving to the bench in 1973. He challenged Gray's contention that he was justified because everyone was doing drugs.

"You go to law school and I guess on occasion in your academic career, somebody would have cheated. Does that mean other people should follow suit?" Gray asked. "If I had started the profession of law and

found out that all the top counsel were doing something that was against the rules... and that was the way to get to the top..."

"You would do it?" interrupted Dubin, his voice rising as he leaned forward in his high-backed chair.

"I don't know," Gray responded.

The judge, looking increasingly disturbed after scolding Johnson for lying earlier this week, paused and studied the witness for several seconds.

"Where did this great desire to win come from?" he asked. "From right here," Gray said, pointing to his chest. "From my heart."

Dubin, a lifelong sports fan, told the dark-haired, bearded lawyer the federal money he had received as an athlete was intended to "create the young Canadians who are going to be

effective role models for others." "You were a champion," Dubin said. "Wouldn't that dawn on you then: 'I can't do this; I'm supposed to be an example for others'?"

Gray: "You wouldn't be a role model if you didn't do drugs and win."

Dubin: "That's a pretty poor role model, isn't it — to cheat?" Gray: "I never asked to be a role model."

Dubin expressed fears that cheating in sport could compel one to cheat in a later life. Gray, now a coach and drug opponent, said he no longer cheats.

"I would assume you don't," the judge said. "I hear very good reports about you from the bar. I don't like preaching but I'm having trouble sometimes understanding what's in" athletes' heads."

Bol: NBA blocker and Dinka tribesman

TURALEI, Sudan (AP) — Manute Bol may make \$400,000 a year playing for a pro basketball team in the United States, but as far as the people back in his faraway village are concerned, his future appears bleak.

"If Manute is still alive," says his uncle, Nguol Bol, one of the village leaders, "tell him his wife has married another man and most of his cattle were stolen by the militias. If he needs any help, we are still here."

Turalei is a remote cattle town of mud and wattle huts. It lies on the northwest corner of the Sudd, a vast swamp during the rainy season.

Not far away is the bloody front of Sudan's 6-year-old civil

war. Before rebels pushed back government troops and invading militias last year, Turalei often bore the brunt of the fighting.

The few red-brick municipal buildings lie abandoned with the roofs gone and weeds creeping through the cracked cement floors. Outside the former police station lie two broken generators and a rusted fuel pump.

Far away, Manute Bol, Turalei's most famous son, has found peace and prosperity running up and down NBA courts for the Golden State Warriors while he carves out a niche as the game's premier shot blocker. But in his own hometown, his fate remains a mystery.

By the time Bol began to make a name for himself in the United States, his home in the southern Sudan was embroiled in the war against the north.

Militias attacked the rebellious

villages to the south. Thousands of people were killed, and Manute's father, Madut Bol, lost nearly his entire cattle herd to raiders.

When Manute Bol, who left to find his basketball fame and ultimately his NBA fortune in 1978, tried to return to Turalei in 1984 for his father's funeral, the fighting prevented him from reaching his village. He has not tried to return since.

Manute Bol does not like to talk about life in Sudan. He is also uncomfortable with telephone interviews, believing he will not be understood because of his accent. He refused to discuss life in Turalei directly, but agreed to answer written questions submitted through his team's office. He plays for the Golden State Warriors in Oakland, California.

"I miss seeing our land," Bol wrote. "I still have a lot of relatives there that I haven't seen since 1983. I would like to see our land again."

In the last two years, a terrible famine has taken the lives of a quarter of a million Sudanese in the south. Of the 27,000 cattle herders and farmers who once lived around Turalei, about 1,000 died of the famine last year, and as many as 75 per cent migrated to the north or other areas in the

search of food, according to village leaders.

Earlier this month, village elders sat under a large mango tree in the centre of town. Many had laid their spears against the trunk of the tree and held empty gourds that serve as eating bowls in their laps. Several had fashioned blankets into crude, toga-like dresses.

Everyone remembers Manute. He was 7-7 (2.3 metre), tall even for a Dinka, the tribe where anyone under 6 feet (1.8 metre) is puny.

Manute's father was a tribal elder, and his grandfather was a chief. His great-grandfather, Bol Nyo, was a paramount chief appointed by the British at the turn of the century to rule over the region. He was one of the most powerful and wealthy men in the southern Sudan and always wore the traditional leopard skin.

His son, Manute's grandfather, was Bol Chol, who weighed close to 300 pounds (136 kilograms) and was even taller than Manute, villagers said. He had 50 wives and more than 80 children.

Manute's father, Madut, chief Bol Chol's second son, was not in line to inherit his father's wealth or social status. He owned 150 head of cattle, the measure of wealth and social position in

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Plans that call for driving or communicating may be disappointing. For one reason or another circumstances may require adjustments or elimination of pre-arranged plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You have reached a new plateau, and that calls for a leveling off of experience and the establishment of stable routines. Enjoy success.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Friendships are stimulating. You get help with a home project. The family may expect more generosity than is available.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You are attracted to a stimulating person. Whatever you need is available through shopping and pleasant contacts.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Enjoy popularity and pleasant social hours. Evening explorations can reveal a lot of what you have felt is missing.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): A romantic interest is too generous to your money. True love survives even if a meager financial picture is revealed. Be honest.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Errands and home projects keep

you busy. Take advantage of a helpful partner. Do not ignore automotive problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): LIBRA is where you shine best. Organizing your day will give you the necessary time for celebrating later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Someone still likes you in spite of recent tensions. Bury the hatchet and find a mutual interest to share. Enjoy life together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Good things come not only because you earned them, but because you deserve them. Organize your life quietly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Invites those close to you to your home for some unusual entertainment. It could be a surprise party plus a loving gift.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Young people challenge you. Neutralize their efforts with diversion and fun. You can be an effective leader.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Communications can lead to one mixup after another. Other people do not agree with you. Ignore other opinions.

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller

ACROSS

- Overboarded
- Provide food
- Egg on
- Midway attraction
- Use a soapbox
- Wrongful act
- Pindic products
- Young fellow
- One
- Deep cut
- Halloween party
- In the thick of
- Sator
- Of Cancer
- Horrible
- Star, composer
- Dillon and Helm
- By way of
- Slaughter in
- Cooperation
- Actor Nick
- Cacophonies
- Way
- Soup server
- Joester's weep
- Hobbes
- Wage earners
- Part of ACLU
- abhor
- Lump
- Like some
- diapers
- Driving
- Coating of ice
- particles of
- Function
- 56 Entourage
- 57 Blue-pencil
- 58 Take — leave it
- 59 Fax questions
- 60 Voice
- 61 Fox feet
- 62 Ford or Pyle
- 63 Piercing

DOWN

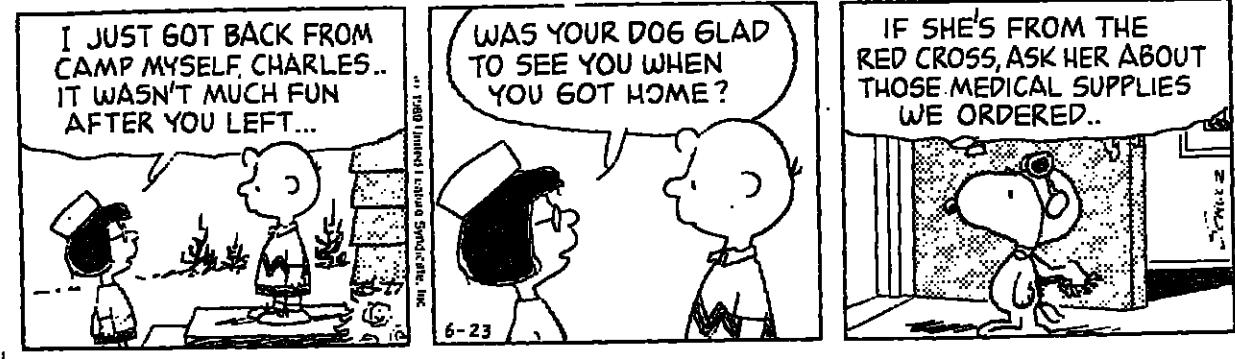
- Peepers
- Rackness' love
- Bad day for
- Cesar
- Olives a new form to
- Unlabeled
- Hung, hero
- Sailors
- Post's subject
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- 10 Driving
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- 14 Corn cavings
- 15 Russ, village
- 16 Nord's kin
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- 18 Hantboys
- 19 Shump
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- 23 Debate official
- 24 Junior e.g.
- 25 Dean
- 40 VIP's wheels
- 41 —
- 42 Diminished
- 43 Grating
- 44 Thin pancake
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- 49 Traffic sign
- 50 Muffin stuff
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- 53 Archimed
- 54 Eng. school

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

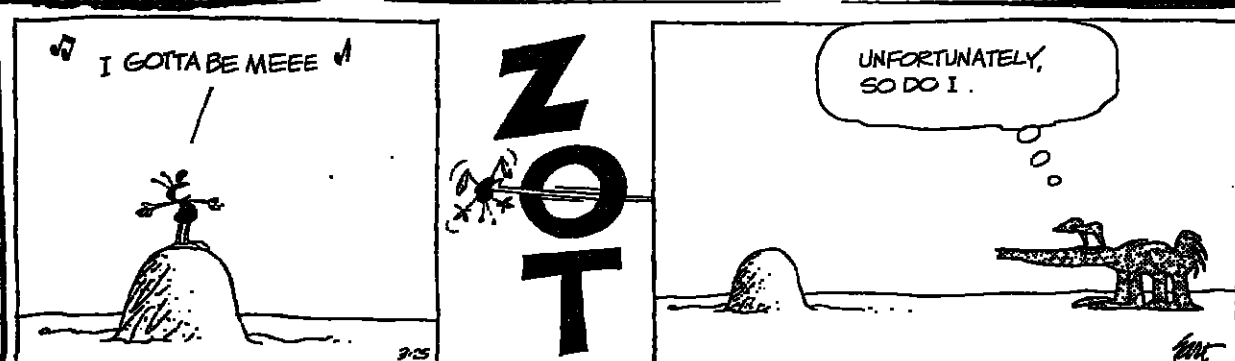
ACROSS: 1. Overboarded, 2. Provide food, 3. Egg on, 4. Midway attraction, 5. Use a soapbox, 6. Wrongful act, 7. Pindic products, 8. Young fellow, 9. One, 10. Deep cut, 11. Halloween party, 12. In the thick of, 13. Sator, 14. Of Cancer, 15. Horrible, 16. Star, composer, 17. Dillon and Helm, 18. By way of, 19. Slaughter in, 20. Cooperation, 21. Actor Nick, 22. Cacophonies, 23. Way, 24. Soup server, 25. Joester's weep, 26. Hobbes, 27. Wage earners, 28. Part of ACLU, 29. abhor, 30. Lump, 31. Like some, 32. diapers, 33. Driving, 34. Coating of ice, 35. particles of, 36. Function, 37. 56 Entourage, 38. 57 Blue-pencil, 39. 58 Take — leave it, 40. 59 Fax questions, 41. 60 Voice, 42. Fox feet, 43. Ford or Pyle, 44. Piercing.

DOWN: 1. Peepers, 2. Rackness' love, 3. Bad day for, 4. Cesar, 5. Olives a new form to, 6. Unlabeled, 7. Hung, hero, 8. Sailors, 9. Post's subject, 10. Govern, 11. Driving, 12. measures, 13. Barrett of, 14. Framework, 15. Clear end, 16. Corn cavings, 17. Russ, village, 18. Nord's kin, 19. Oscar de, 20. Hantboys, 21. Shump, 22. Sheepish, 23. Chop up, 24. Abates, 25. Debate official, 26. Junior e.g., 27. Dean, 40. VIP's wheels, 41. —, 42. Diminished, 43. Grating, 44. Thin pancake, 47. Tricking, 48. Jot, 49. Traffic sign, 50. Muffin stuff, 52. Unemployed, 53. Archimed, 54. Eng. school.

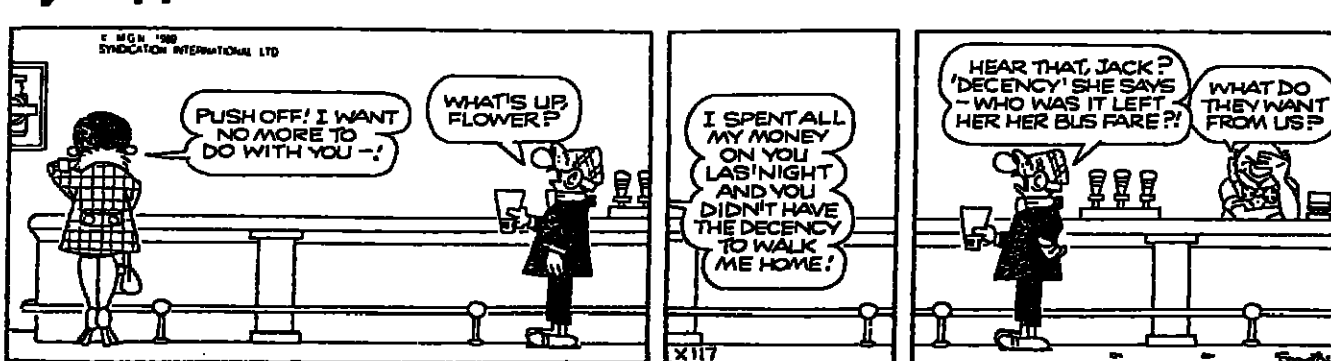
Peanuts



B.C.

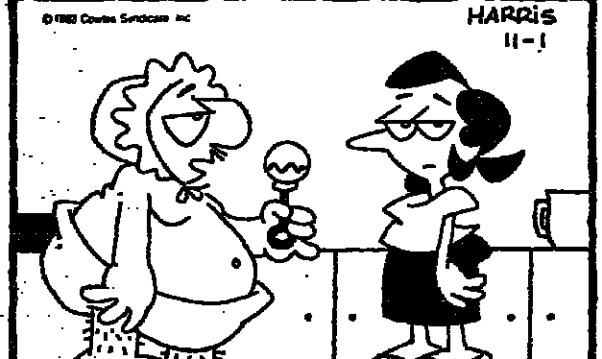


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



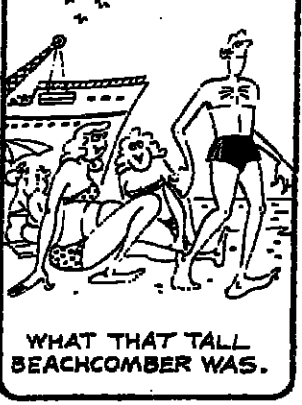
"The ad said, 'MEN—LOOK YOUNGER INSTANTLY!' They sent me this outfit."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PAROE
NOMUT
GENPOS
REPHEL



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A. (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIANO TULIP GUILTY PUNDT
Answer: A diet is something you keep putting off while you keep this—PUTTING ON



Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, mingle with the crowd and shake hands during the Soviet leader's West German visit which ended Thursday.

Kohl: Gorbachev sees early arms agreement in Vienna

BONN (Agencies) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Friday that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev believed East-West conventional arms talks could produce an agreement by mid-1990.

Kohl, addressing parliament after Gorbachev's triumphant tour of West Germany, said the Kremlin chief agreed that cuts to be negotiated at arms talks in Vienna could be implemented by 1992 or 1993.

Gorbachev said Monday, the first day of his four-day visit, that U.S. President George Bush's proposals to reduce military manpower in Europe could speed up an agreement in Vienna.

But he did not say clearly at that time whether Bush's goal of an agreement within a year could be reached.

"The general secretary shared my opinion that the deadlines set by President Bush — a first agreement in six to 12 months and its implementation by 1992-1993 — are quite attainable if

both sides work at it," Kohl told parliament.

"We must keep this goal in view," he said.

Bush's proposal, made at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO's) 40th anniversary summit in Brussels last month, would force the U.S. to withdraw about 30,000 soldiers from Europe and the Soviet Union 325,000, according to U.S. estimates.

NATO also agreed to Bonn's demand for East-West talks on reducing short-range nuclear arms (SNF) after a Vienna agreement on manpower cuts is implemented.

Kohl, faced with widespread public opposition to SNF missiles, said he hoped the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact would react positively to the NATO proposals.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Kohl telephoned Bush to discuss Gorbachev's visit to West Germany, where crowds have cheered the Kremlin leader for his peace in-

itatives.

Kohl called "just to report on the visit with Gorbachev. He said he thought it was a successful visit," said Fitzwater.

START talks prospects

A senior American official said Thursday the United States might reopen nuclear arms talks with the Soviet Union next week without a complete proposal for new reductions.

U.S. negotiators "don't necessarily have anything in their pockets right now," the official said Thursday after Bush met with Secretary of State James Baker, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, arms control director Ron Lehman, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and other advisers.

The officials were "reviewing in detail the terms of the treaty and that process is still going on and probably will not be finished" by Monday when the talks reopen in Geneva, the official said, insisting on anonymity.

Ryzhkov blames violence on corruption and intrigue

More bodies found, 8,000 weapons seized in Fergana

MOSCOW (AP) — Authorities have found two more bodies and seized nearly 8,000 weapons since imposing a curfew to subdue violence in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, official news media reported Friday.

The official news agency TASS said Friday that soldiers had confiscated 157 firearms, 26 molotov cocktails and other weapons during road checks in the last 24 hours. A total of 7,718 weapons have been confiscated in all.

The remains of two people were discovered and added to the list of victims, TASS said. On Thursday, the agency quoted Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov as saying that about 100 people had died during the turmoil and many of the bodies had been badly mutilated.

More than 1,000 buildings have been looted and burned since the

rampage against the Meskhi Turk minority began in the Fergana Valley about 2,500 kilometres southeast of Moscow, the agency reported.

More than 1,500 people have been detained for violating the nighttime curfew that went into effect June 4, the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda reported.

Vice-President Anatoly Lukyanov has dispatched two parliament members to prepare a report for the Council of Nationalities, one of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet legislature, which will investigate the tragedy, TASS said.

The spasm of gang violence in Uzbekistan is a case of ethnic hatred being exploited for political gain, Ryzhkov told Uzbek Party activists at a meeting in Tashkent Thursday. TASS reported earlier.

Ryzhkov said a solution to ethnic problems was a top priority and required urgent consideration by the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's new parliament. TASS reported.

The news agency said Ryzhkov and former KGB chief Viktor Chebrikov, now the Kremlin's top law-and-order official, wound up a four-day investigation Thursday of the rampage against the Meskhi Turk minority, who were forcibly resettled to Uzbekistan from their Georgian homeland in 1944.

TASS quoted Ryzhkov as

saying, "This (violence) was the work of ruthless and cruel hands of those to whom inter-ethnic enmity had always been the soil for the criminal mentality that everything goes — corruption and shady economic and political dealings."

At another party meeting near Fergana, the city where the worst unrest has taken place, Ryzhkov said party and government officials, whom he did not identify, gave gasoline, transportation and vodka to attackers who killed Meskhi Turks.

In neither case did Ryzhkov identify the people he held responsible.

Ryzhkov told the party meeting a solution to ethnic problems was a top priority and required urgent consideration by parliament, TASS reported.



RETURN HOME: Supporters of the South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) sing and wave placards as the first Namibian political exiles returned to Windhoek Monday.

returning of the political exiles is the latest stage in the South African territory's transition to independence.

SWAPO pledges to fight fair, peaceful elections

LUSAKA (R) — The Namibian nationalist group South-West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) pledged Friday to fight a fair and non-violent election campaign in Namibia and named South Africa as its main opponent.

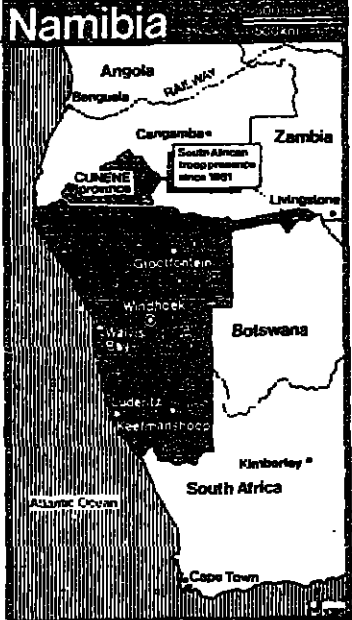
"SWAPO assures the international community and the Namibian people that SWAPO will replace guns with ballots," said Hage Geingob, director of elections for SWAPO.

He told journalists that he and a team of top SWAPO officials would fly to Windhoek Sunday "to launch a clean and democratic election campaign," due to begin July 1.

He said SWAPO, which waged a guerrilla war against South African rule in Namibia for more than two decades, wanted to believe Pretoria was sincere in implementing a United Nations independence plan which sets elections for Nov. 1.

SWAPO is widely tipped to win most votes in the poll.

"We wish to make it clear to



the world that SWAPO took to fighting because Namibians were denied their democratic right to elect and be elected. Now that this right is forthcoming, the fighting has ceased," said

Geingob.

Geingob said SWAPO did not view the other parties expected to contest the elections as its opponents, saying: "the elections will be between SWAPO and South Africa."

He attacked as a "South African creation" the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), a grouping of African, coloured and white political groups which had formed part of the transitional government installed by South Africa in the territory.

The DTA will be running against SWAPO in the election. Asked if SWAPO would invite other politicians to join a government if it won the elections, he said:

"Whether we win two-thirds or 100 per cent of the votes, all Namibians will be required to join hands and rebuild the country... we are going to offer them jobs."

Gabor reverses charges after Beverly Hill arrest

LOS ANGELES (R) — "Darlings, my mother always told me to avoid handsome men," Zsa Zsa Gabor said Thursday, giving her version of an incident in which Beverly Hills police handcuffed and arrested her for traffic violations.

"This one was handsome, gorgeous, Tom Selleck plus," she said. "Now I know mother was right."

Show her bruised wrists, she said: "This man, a policeman, grabbed me out of my car, put handcuffs on me so tight they caused these bruises and called me a whore and a bitch."

"I need an apology," she declared.

The eight-times married Gabor, whose age is listed as either 66 or 68 although she says she is 58, called a press conference at her mansion on a hill overlooking the millionaires' estate of Bel-Air Thursday to give her version of her arrest on suspicion of battery and other charges.

Gabor said she did not want to sue the policeman. "I am a strong woman," she said. "An apology will do."

"I am standing up for the battered women of America," she declared. "I want to show the police cannot mishandle a woman."

While the officer was checking her plates, she drove off, Smith alleged. When she was stopped again by the policeman, she slapped him in the face, Smith said.

She was accused of evading a policeman, battery, driving with an expired licence, driving an unregistered vehicle and driving with an open container of alcohol. Police have refused to reveal the policeman's name.

Gabor, wearing tight blue pants and a sloppy blue knitted top, said: "I was born in Hungary and I have visited other countries, but I have never seen anything like this."

Asked if she swore at the police man, Gabor smiled. "I called him darling," she said. "I said 'Darling, why do you do this to me?'"

"I was only reacting. He was nearly breaking my arm and I was trying to protect myself. They took me to jail and took my fingerprints and two of my finger-

'No such thing as safer cigarettes'

BOSTON (R) — Cigarettes with low levels of tar and nicotine do not protect women smokers from the risk of heart attack, according to a new report by scientists.

In a three-year study of over 3,000 woman smokers and non-smokers, researchers at the Boston University School of Medicine found that smokers were four times more likely to have a heart attack than non-smokers and that smoking "safer" cigarettes did not make a difference.

A 1983 study found the same results in men.

The study of women under 65, which appears in the current issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, comes at a time when the tobacco industry is using "advertising campaigns that imply that some cigarettes — low-yield brands — are safer, or safer than others," the researchers said.

"What these findings mean

for smokers, at least as they relate to heart disease, is that there is no advantage to switching brands from a high-yield brand to a low-yield brand," said Julie Palmer, an epidemiologist and chief author of the study.

The Palmer group found that women who smoked cigarettes with over 1.3 milligrammes of nicotine had a heart attack risk 4.2 times greater than for women who were nonsmokers. Among women whose cigarettes had less than 0.4 milligrammes, the risk was 4.7 times greater.

The study found that the number of cigarettes smoked turned out to be the best predictor of risk.

Women who smoked between one and four cigarettes each day doubled their chances of heart attack, while those who smoked more than 45 each day had a risk 22 times higher than nonsmokers.

Former smokers had about the same risk as the nons-

smokers.

"Physicians should give their patients the unequivocal message that low-yield cigarettes are not safe cigarettes," said Dr. Neal Benowitz of the San Francisco General Hospital, in an accompanying editorial.

"The only reliable way to reduce the adverse health consequences of smoking is to stop."

The dangers of low-yield and high-yield cigarettes are equally high because, according to previous research, people smoke low-yield cigarettes differently.

To bring more nicotine out of each low-yield cigarette, smokers take more puffs, inhale more, or smoke more cigarettes.

As a result, they may be exposed to the same amount of tar, carbon monoxide and other poisons that they would get if they smoked regular cigarettes.

"The expected reduction in disease risk for a person who smokes a low-yield cigarette is small," said Benowitz.

Menem to take power July 8

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — President Raul Alfonsín will remain in office until July 8, when he hands power over to President-elect Carlos Menem, spokesmen for both men said Thursday.

Alfonsín's six-year term officially runs out Dec. 10, but he announced Monday he would step down June 30 because of Argentina's economic crisis and political paralysis.

Menem, however, did not want to take power that early, and the transition teams met for three days to negotiate a new date.

No amnesty for generals

The Argentine supreme court Thursday rejected an amnesty for ex-president Leopoldo Galtieri and three other generals charged with human rights abuses committed during the 1976-83 dictatorship.

Attorney General Andres D'Alessio had asked the court to determine whether the four were entitled to shelter from prosecution by partial amnesty laws approved by Congress in 1986 and 1987.

Court spokesman Antonio Lopez de Tejada said more than a dozen human rights cases are under review, but those four now face prosecution in federal courts.

The decision complicated an issue that sparked three rebellions against Alfonsín and threatens to undermine the government of Menem.

About 20 generals face trial for the kidnapping, torture and murder of some 9,000 Argentines who were arrested and presumed executed between the March 1976 military coup and Alfonsín's election in October 1983.

The high command wants the trials called off, and seeks the release of officers who were prosecuted and convicted in December 1985, including army commanders Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, two more ex-presidents.

The issue is so sensitive that it has caused a rift between the

Defence Minister-designate Italo Luder said he thinks a 1986 law that limited prosecutions to those filed by Feb. 22, 1987, and a law that barred the prosecution of 400 officers on the grounds they acted under orders, constitute an amnesty.

Human rights groups claim the military committed repression, and insist that trials be held. There is little middle ground and potentially tremendous political fallout.

Leaders of Argentina's two main parties, Alfonsín's Radical Civic Union and Menem's Peronist Party, and reluctant to admit publicly they are discussing the issue, though privately they acknowledge they are.

The financial newspaper Ambio-Financiero reported Thursday that Alfonsín drafted a pardon decree and offered it to Menem for their joint signature. "I refused to sign it," the front-page article quoted Menem as saying.

Menem clearly wants Alfonsín to resolve the issue. "The situation stems from the current government and I consider it convenient that it grant the answer and the solution," he said last week.

Also unresolved are the cases of several hundred officers and soldiers who took part in the April 1987 and January 1988 uprisings led by Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico, and the December 1988 barracks revolt led by Col. Mohammad Ali Seineldin.

The Peronists want the suspended officers cashiered or retired, a key party strategist told the AP Thursday. There is strong support in the party for a pardon and amnesty.

The issue is so sensitive that it has caused a rift between the

1982 Falklands Island war with Britain.

He is charged in federal court in western Rosario with having ordered the deaths of 13 political opponents in December 1976. At the time, he was commander of the second Army Corps based in Rosario.



Carlos Menem

COLUMN

Guinness lists more ingenious records

LONDON (AP) — An Indian painted 241 letters on a grain of rice, a Scotsman tossed a pancake 262 times in one minute, and two South Africans told jokes for 2½ days. Not surprisingly, they're all earned entries in that journal of ultimates, the Guinness Book of Records. The annual edition — this will be the 36th — is published in October to exploit the Christmas market, and an honour roll of new human achievements has been published by Guinness Publishing Ltd. The 1990 volume will list nearly 15,000 milestones in sports, business, science, the arts, the animal kingdom and the universe. But trivia buffs will likely turn first to the more subjective category of the bizarre. Surendra Apharya makes the grade for inscribing names of countries and regions, totalling 241 characters, on a grain of rice in Jaipur, India, on Feb. 25. He used a camel-hair brush. Scottish restaurant owner Philip Arling-stall qualified in 60 seconds, tossing a pancake 4.36 times every second at Fordyce on April 28. John Evans and Derek Dennis, spent 60 hours raising laughs in Rosebank, South Africa, last September. Other first-time entries will include the human with the strongest hair, 11-year-old Gajinder Kaur of Leicester, England, whose single strand of hair took the strain of 255 grammes. In the United States, the six sons and four daughters of Joseph and Sophia Gresl of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, all celebrated 50th wedding anniversaries between 1962 and 1988 — the most ever recorded in one family.

Torture victim awarded \$47m

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — A judge has ordered the Defence Ministry to pay \$47 million to a man who was arrested and tortured during the 1972-85 military dictatorship, a newspaper reported Thursday. The man was not named by the report. He was held from January 1976 to May 1977, the weekly newspaper Busqueda reported, citing civil court Judge Carlos Bertlangieri. The victim's injuries were not described, but Bertlangieri said they prevented him from returning to his work as an electrician.

\$20m siphoned from post office

ZURICH (AP) — A 22-year-old post office worker has been arrested as prime suspect in the theft of cash, gold and jewels worth \$20.5 million from Zurich's main post office in January, police say. Police said that the suspect, who has not been named, had confessed to the crime and that nearly all the stolen goods had been recovered. Post office officials initially said they thought the two sacks containing the valuables had been lost. After an internal inquiry, they called in the police, who took fingerprints of about 550 post office employees during the investigation.

Truck drivers strangers to signs

NEW DELHI (R) — Almost all Indian truck drivers are unaware of basic traffic rules and cause most of the country's 40,000 road deaths, a government survey shows. The survey, conducted by the state-run Central Road Research Institute on 755 truck drivers from all parts of India, said 99 per cent of them failed to recognize even main road signs. India's 800 million people have one of the lowest levels of car ownership in the world, but major roads, rarely more than one lane in each direction, can be death traps.

Global weather

(major world cities)

tries will include the human with the strongest hair. 11-year-old Galsinder Kaur of Leicester, England, whose single strand of hair took the strain of 255 grammes. In the United States, the six sons and four daughters of Joseph and Sophia Gresl of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, all celebrated 50th wedding anniversaries between 1962 and 1988 — the most ever re-